

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## Operation Rescue battle stirs Wichita pastors

By Louis Moore



COLD SPRINGS, Calif. — Participants in a Centrifuge youth camp, held at Jenness Park Baptist Assembly in Cold Springs, Calif., play a huge game of volleyball during the July 29-Aug.

3 camp. Centrifuge, for 8th-12th graders, is sponsored by the Sunday School Board's church recreation department. (Photo by Terri Lackey.)

## Life for Centrifuge staffers is grueling, but full of smiles

By Terri Lackey

COLD SPRINGS, Calif. — They wake up early and go to bed late. They wear the same clothes again and again. They share disheveled living quarters with at least three other people. And, they eat food that is iffy, at best.

They've forgotten what it means to speak in normal tones. This summer, they've learned to raise their voices by seven decibels just to be heard.

They get grungy, sweaty, fatigued, and homesick.

And, through it all, they smile.

"They" are the West Coast Centrifuge traveling team. A group of 12 young adults, ages 22-33, who traveled the western states this summer taking the gospel to teenagers. Centrifuge is a recreational camp for youths in 8th through 12th grades sponsored by the Sunday School Board's church recreation department. Besides recreation, the camp offers Bible study, worship, and special classes.

The Centrifuge traveling team left their homes June 1, and won't return until the end of August. They have traveled 5,500 miles throughout five states in a rented van and a moving truck. Their time together has been constant. They have become like family — whether that be bad or good.

Darla Kling of Picayune acknowledged she is one of the less organized of the group, but she said she balances that out by being flexible.

Clothes were strewn everywhere in girls' living quarters at Jenness Park Baptist Assembly in Cold Springs, Calif., Kling admits, but "when it gets too messy to stand, we just regroup."

What is more important than neatness when traveling with a familial group for 11 weeks is flexibility and a non-judgmental character, said Kling, a member of Goodyear Church in Picayune.

"You have to respect each other," Kling said of her traveling companions. "You have to put other people first, try not to be selfish, and have a servant attitude."

Kling, a student at New Orleans Seminary, said when she gets home, she is going to take a long bath and rest a couple of days. "I'm tired, emotionally and physically."

Allen Winstead, 24, earned the nickname "Elvis" because of his affinity for trivia about the deceased rock-and-roll legend. The flipped-up hair at the back of Winstead's neck might be considered characteristic of the music star.

More likely, it is the lack of a barber during the 11 weeks on the road.

Besides the real void of a place to get a haircut, Winstead, of Jackson, said being a Centrifuge staffer "was a lot easier than I thought it would be."



Allen Winstead of Jackson led a Bible study for Centrifuge youth camp participants at Jenness Park Baptist Assembly in Cold Springs, Calif. (Photo by Terri Lackey)



Darla Kling of Picayune gives game rule instruction to Centrifuge youth at Jenness Park Baptist Assembly in Cold Springs, Calif. (BSSB photo by Terri Lackey)

Winstead, who was serving his first stint as a Centrifuge staffer, said he enjoyed "going from place to place."

"I'd rather be on a traveling team (than a stationary one)," said the Southwestern Seminary student. "You meet a variety of people and every camp is a new experience."

Other team members included: Kevin Sigsby of Salt Lake City, Utah; Scott Stookey and Michael Perryman of Kankakee, Ill.; Daniel and Vicki Lambert of Fort Worth, Texas; Pam Foster of Gold Hill, Ore.; Mary Byrd of Louisville, Ky.; and John Craig of Nashville, Tenn.

The West Coast team conducted camps at Sivalis Baptist Camp, Cloudcroft, N.M.; Inlow Youth Camp, Taji, Idaho; Camp Sanders, Tensed, Idaho; Mt. Baker Baptist Conference Center, Deming, Wash.; Jenness Park Baptist Assembly, Cold Springs, Calif.; and Wyoming Baptist Camp, Casper, Wyo.

Lackey writes for BSSB.

Wichita, Kan. (BP) — Three of the 36 Southern Baptist pastors here have been arrested in demonstrations since Operation Rescue began blockading abortion clinics in this city July 15.

The remaining Southern Baptist pastors in Wichita are divided along lines that are either for or against Operation Rescue. Operation Rescue chose Wichita as the site for its "Summer of Mercy" protests, and secular and religious leaders say the demonstrators have seized a strong emotional grip over the entire city.

More than 1,400 people, including more than 80 clergy, have been arrested in the demonstrations against Wichita's three abortion clinics.

Much of the activity has focused on Wichita physician George Tiller's Women's Health Care Services, which does late-term abortions.

Craig Atherton, 39, pastor of Trinity Church in Wichita, says when the Operation Rescue demonstrations started in Wichita on July 15 he was just a spectator watching the events on television. His wife, Colleen, and their 11-year-old daughter led their family to involvement — and eventually to be arrested — through a decision to take drinks to the protesters. They moved from bearing drinks to carrying signs and eventually persuaded Atherton himself to join the movement in early August.

Craig and Colleen Atherton and their two daughters, ages 11 and 8, were taken into custody on August 3 outside the Tiller clinic. Despite prior assurances from the police that their daughters would neither be separated from them nor arrested, the girls were taken to a separate holding station and threatened with being sent to a juvenile court, Atherton said. The girls were eventually released without

arrest but Atherton says they were severely frightened by the experience.

David Cone, 45, pastor of County Acres Church in Wichita, and his wife Nancy were also arrested on the same day at the same site as the Athertons. Their 11-year-old daughter was also separated from them and taken to the same holding station as the Atherton's daughters.

The Cones, however, were involved with Operation Rescue from the beginning of the Wichita demonstrations.

The third pastor who was arrested in the demonstration is Richard Simmons of Plainview Church in Wichita.

Richard D. Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, is urging Southern Baptists in Wichita to think through carefully how they feel toward Operation Rescue and then to respond with their consciences but with a nonjudgmental love toward one another.

"It is clear from a wide range of events and statements that Southern Baptists disagree about Operation Rescue," Land said. "Even among the significant majority of Southern Baptists who are adamantly opposed to abortion on demand, there is disagreement concerning either the acceptability or the advisability of Operation Rescue."

"Both those responding positively and negatively to Operation Rescue should always remember that when the point of invoking civil disobedience has been reached is a question that must always remain one of individual conscience. I would call upon those who have reached that point not to judge those who have not, and those who have not, not to judge those who have."

Moore writes for CLC.

## Plight of the child in U.S. calls for adult advocacy

By Susan Todd Doyle

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — The intricate, spider-web-like structure of the American family is being torn apart, and it is not being repaired, said a national children's educator. Sadly, the child is the one who suffers the most from the breakdown.

"The mounting crisis of our children and families is a rebuke to everything America professes to be," said Barbara Massey, a children's magazine editor for Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

"(The crisis) will bring America to its economic knees and increase violence and discord within this country unless we confront it," she said.

Massey recently spoke to WMU leaders attending training conferences at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

She described some of the crises facing children in America today:

- every eight seconds of the school day, an American child drops out;
- every 26 seconds, an American child runs away from home;
- every 47 seconds, an American child is abused and neglected;
- every 67 seconds, an American teen-ager has a baby;
- every seven minutes, an American child is arrested for a drug

offense;

— every 30 minutes, an American child is arrested for drunken driving;

— every 53 minutes, an American child dies of poverty;

— every school day, 135,000 American children bring guns to school.

"As the wealthiest nation on earth and the standard-bearer of democracy, we have an 'A' capacity to care for our children, but an 'F' performance on many key indicators of child well-being," said Massey.

"By every measure, the U.S. performance is unsatisfactory."

"There are hundreds of ways to advocate for children," Massey said.

One of the ways WMU is getting involved as an advocate for children is by joining with other SBC entities and secular children's advocacy groups to sponsor the National Child Advocacy Conference in Louisville, Ky., April 21-23, 1993. The theme of the conference will be "Children and the Church."

"We as Southern Baptists have an amazing amount of resources, but we're hoarding them," Massey said. "There is more that we can do together."

Doyle writes for WMU.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## Blessed and empowered

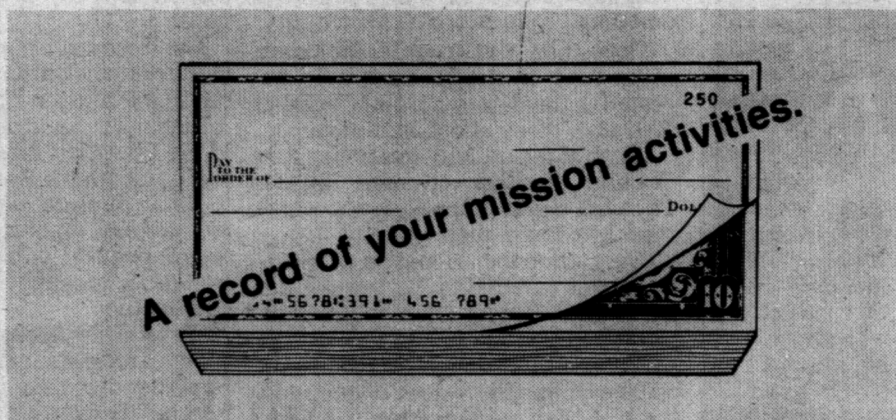
The launch pad for strong world mission work is a strong state mission program. Fewer dollars invested in our mission program at home will eventually mean fewer dollars for our work overseas. It's not only the dollar mark, but also is the mark of compassion. How can we say we love a brother whom we have not seen if we do not love a brother whom we can see? Keeping Jerusalem strong in mission activities will benefit Judea

and Samaria.

The State Mission Emphasis, Sept. 8-11, has as its theme, "Mississippi Empowered," and an offering goal of \$645,000 for ministries across the state has been set. Remember the tornado at Vaiden, the flooding at Marks, and the disaster van on site serving 18,000 meals? These are all examples of state mission funds at work. Think of all the youths of our state who experienced mission activities at Camp

Garaywa and Central Hills assemblies. All of this, plus ten other needed ministries, will be continued when we respond to State Mission Emphasis.

The offering, however, is secondary. If we are to be empowered, we must pray. The WMU has made information available to each church suggesting a prayer emphasis that will empower our work. Mission work in Mississippi is our responsibility. — GH



## "God cleared every hurdle," says music volunteer

By Charles Willis

HONOLULU, Hawaii — Peggy Martin says she believes her participation in a half-dozen volunteer music missions projects since 1985 is a miracle.

A volunteer children's music leader for 40 years, Martin first heard about the Sunday School Board's Musicians on Mission project at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center in 1984.

Martin, a member of Central Baptist Church of Bearden in Knoxville, Tenn., said she was immediately "stung" by the call to music missions. That night she lay awake, troubled by her lack of formal music training and of funds to travel to proposed sites across the United States.

"Finally," she recalled during the music missions workshop in Honolulu, Hawaii, "I knelt by my bed and prayed, 'God, I'll go where you want me to go.' Then I went to sleep."

While funds have come in miraculous ways for her to participate in workshops and volunteer work in California, Iowa, Maryland, Ohio (twice), and Hawaii, Martin confesses "Satan gets busy with your mind and throws obstacles in your path."

In the past six years she has struggled with vacation schedules, her work load as a technical writer and editor, family needs, health problems, and a myriad of travel woes.

On her first trip, her plane slid off the runway because of ice and was tossed about in a thunderstorm. In her latest experience, someone tried to

break into her room on her first night in "paradise."

Money came as birthday and Christmas gifts, love gifts from friends, church gifts, unexpected overtime pay, and free airline tickets.

And Martin said she would not trade her "working" vacations for leisure.

"Vacations given to missions become the most blessed experiences," she declared, "and the change of pace is incredible. The spiritual renewal is worth more than any imagined vacation."

Her children have been "surprisingly" supportive, she added. In lieu of weeklong vacations, they have agreed to two or three weekends together instead.

Conflicts with work schedules have meant some late night or weekend work, she said. In at least one instance, an important deadline was changed by a client to ease Martin's schedule. But, she admits, "I made the deadline anyway."

"God has been there to help me clear every hurdle. I have learned that if God can empower the mighty rivers to run to the sea, he can certainly empower me. I have learned to expect the unexpected and expect God to make things right."

Through her work with churches struggling to provide music programs without trained leaders, Martin said she has reassessed her Christian service.

"I have been a person who tried to do all the things a Christian should do," she admitted. "I went to church, taught a class, sang in the choir, directed children's choirs, coordinated choir programs, gave money to programs. Why, I was so wonderful! I helped in WMU, youth choir, and handbells. I even went on outings with teenagers."

"But participation in music missions convinced me of the urgency to witness to the paperboy, the mailman, the cashier at the grocery, my co-workers, and my beloved third-grade choir. Musicians on Mission involvement has convinced me I had been a Judas most of my life. For every missed opportunity, I will have to answer. I am convinced I never need to 'go' further than wherever I stand to be a witness for my Lord."

Martin lists among her valued music missions experiences newfound friends, newly established music programs, creative worship experiences, experience in teaching a range of music skills, and conversions among children and, subsequently, their families.

"I still find it incomprehensible that God can use me, but I have learned I am called to teach a child about God through music," she declared. "Music missions experience has convinced me that I am a musician with a mission."

Willis writes for BSSB.

## Rest, ye weary ones

For just a moment skip the theology and take a look at Sunday. It's our day of worship, rest, sports, shopping, visiting, and whatever comes to mind.

Keep the Sabbath Day holy rules led to some rather ridiculous activities in every generation since the day of the lawgiver. This is no plea for rules, regulations, nor law.

Sunday is our day of worship and rest. We need it. Any person who battles society for six days needs to rest. We need this change of pace for renewal of energy and spirit.

Regardless of what others do, as followers of Christ, we need to worship and serve him. It grieves me to see a man having to leave worship services early so he can be on the job early. He needs the rest, too. The owner of the department store and all the clerks need a day set apart.

I'm sure there are reasons for gas stations, restaurants, and drug stores to be open. However, must we open the whole mall and seek to entice people to do Sunday shopping? Is competition so fierce we must compete seven days a week? Are we so busy six days we cannot do our necessary shopping?

Surely, as Christians we could encourage merchants to refrain from opening on Sunday and give the employees a day of rest. One way is

to refuse to do any shopping on Sunday unless absolutely necessary. We could commend the merchants who do not open on Sunday and let them know we appreciate it.

There is a point where Christians must speak out, a line we must not cross. It's a mind-set molded and shaped by our citizenship in a new kingdom.

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind," (Romans 12:2).

Christians, no longer under the law, but living under the divine grace of God, ought to count every day sacred and a special gift from the Father. "This is the day the Lord hath made; I will be glad and rejoice in it." The first day of the week, a special memorial day, the day the early church met to worship, we have the privilege to assemble with God's people, study his word, engage in prayer, confession, and pardon. Strength is received from this spiritual food that will enable us to live the other six days to his praise and glory.

I repeat, this is no plea for rules, regulations, or a "thou shalt not" attitude. Laws can wreck the spirit here. It's a plea for love, not law. Sabbath keepers and law-bound believers walk (See **REST** on page 7)

## Whew! Glad that's over

That busy world of white frocks, needles, pills galore, smiling nurses, and friendly staff at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center . . . and I was part of it for four days. A heart catheterization thankfully revealed no blockage or damage, but it was a tough

reminder. I was impressed by the various ministries offered by the hospital . . . oops! — I almost said it was a joy to be there. Anyhow, the editor is back at work, hopefully with a pure heart. — GH

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## Moody seeks "healing" through SBC presidency

By Greg Warner

VAN NUYS, Calif. (ABP) — California pastor Jess Moody has agreed to be nominated for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention next year in a last-ditch attempt to heal the rift between the two factions that have fought for control of the SBC for more than a decade.

Moody, pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Church in Van Nuys, Calif., confirmed Aug. 28 that a group of non-aligned pastors and others has asked him to allow his nomination as president.

Moody reportedly will be nominated by country comedian and Baptist layman Jerry Clower of Liberty, Miss., who has written current president Morris Chapman to state his intention. Clower could not be reached for comment.

A president committed to healing the denominational rift is "the last hope for the Southern Baptist Convention," Moody told Associated Baptist Press Aug. 28.

"I fear for the future of the convention unless some spirit of reconciliation sweeps the convention," Moody said. "We've tried fighting. Now let's try love."

"There are a lot of people who are ready for a healer," said Don Letzring, pastor of Wellwood Church in Tampa, Fla., and chairman of the ad hoc committee that drafted Moody for the

presidency.

Letzring's committee has been conducting its quiet campaign on Moody's behalf since May, writing letters and enlisting supporters from several states. The 15-member committee is composed mostly of Florida pastors, many of whom have not previously been involved in the politicking that has consumed the SBC for more than a decade.

*"I'm trying to build a bridge between these two groups, who secretly love each other. And I want them to let the secret out, because a waiting world is watching, and they're not very impressed."* — Jess Moody

Since 1979, SBC fundamental-conservatives have elected a succession of seven presidents in a coordinated effort to turn the denomination in a more conservative direction. A successor to two-term president Chapman will be chosen in June 1992, when the Southern Baptist Convention meets in Indianapolis, Ind.

Behind the movement toward Moody, supporters say, is growing dissatisfaction with both

fundamental-conservative control of the SBC and the trend toward disassociation from the denomination, as some moderate-conservatives are advocating.

Such a "third party" candidacy could add a new wrinkle to a denominational squabble that many observers thought had died down.

"Our pulse of the convention is that there is a feeling there needs to be a coming back to the middle," said Letzring.

Letzring also said his group will nominate Arizona pastor Richard Jackson for president of the SBC Pastors' Conference in an attempt to return the conference "to a forum to meet pastors' needs" instead of a staging ground for presidential politics.

But Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Church in Phoenix, told ABP he is "not interested" in the job. Jackson, who twice lost bids for the SBC presidency, acknowledged talking to Letzring about the pastors' post but said, "I'm not going to do that."

Moody, 66, has been pastor of the Van Nuys congregation near Los Angeles since 1976. The Southern Baptist church, formerly First Baptist of Van Nuys, recently changed its name to Shepherd of the Hills Church.

He was an unsuccessful candidate (See **MOODY** on page 4)

## Art Toalston recommended for Baptist Press editor

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board staff writer Art Toalston Jr. will be recommended to fill the new position of editor at Baptist Press, according to Harold C. Bennett, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

Bennett's recommendation, which has been affirmed by the committee's officers, will be considered by the administrative subcommittee of the Executive Committee when it meets Sept. 17 in Nashville.

If approved, Toalston, 40, would begin no later than Jan. 2, 1992.

The new position was created from two former positions at the national office of Baptist Press, the denomination's daily news service.

An earlier reorganization of the Executive Committee's staff had separated Baptist Press and the public relations function with each headed by a vice president. Baptist Press news editor and the features editor were then combined into one

editor position.

Toalston has been with the FMB in Richmond, Va. since January 1985 following positions with a number of newspapers as a religion editor/writer, including *The Jackson Daily News* in Jackson, Miss. He was also co-news director for Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas during 1984 while attending the seminary.

As staff writer/secular news coordinator at the FMB, Toalston is responsible for coverage of missions news in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, as well as coordinating news releases to secular news media, including television and radio.

As editor, Baptist Press, he would be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the news service, said Herb Hollinger, vice president for Baptist Press, with considerable work in editing and working with the various BP bureaus and SBC agencies.

Toalston and his wife, Karen, have one child, a daughter born June 19.

## Seven states call Convocation on Mississippi River Ministry

A convocation on the Mississippi River Ministry has been called by the missions directors of seven states along the lower Mississippi River. In a planning conference held on Aug. 19-20 in West Memphis, Ark., missions leaders from Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, and Illinois met to discuss the needs of 219 counties along their borders and the Mississippi River. Responding to the President's Commission on the Lower Mississippi River Delta, the conferees considered how Baptist churches, associations, and conventions could be involved in reaching people through ministries directed toward what has been described as "among the neediest counties in America."

The astonishing information presented included an unemployment rate of 24.86% in some areas (over four times the national average), per capita income nearly 25% below the national average, and an infant mortality rate for some counties higher than that of Chile, Cuba, Malaysia, or French Guiana. Illiteracy was another problem that was discussed, with some areas of the target counties experiencing over 60% functional illiteracy. Other areas of discussion in-

cluded the school drop-out rate, housing, volunteerism, health care, and leadership development.

As the SBC "Year of Ministry" approaches (1993-94), the conferees decided that a seven state convocation was appropriate to expose the depths of the problems and needs of this region, to explain existing ministries by churches, associations, and conventions, and to explore new ways of reaching people for Christ through ministering to human needs. A similar ministry along the Rio Grande River in Texas has produced not only thousands of ministry and evangelistic opportunities, but also has helped to begin 477 new missions, many of which are self-supporting churches today.

The Convocation on the Mississippi River Ministry will be held on Aug. 7-8, 1992, at the Eudora Church, Memphis, Tenn. Attendance is open to pastors, lay persons, mission workers, associational directors of missions, Brotherhood and WMU leaders, and the general public. Interested persons should contact Ray Grissett, director, Cooperative Missions, MBCB, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, for further information about registration.

## Brotherhood disaster relief volunteers impact Cape Cod

By Jim Burton

CAPE COD, Mass. (BP) — Seventy-eight Brotherhood disaster relief volunteers from six states have fed over 6,000 meals and removed about 500 dump truck loads of debris within six days of Hurricane Bob's strike, said Robert Simpkins, Kentucky Brotherhood and disaster relief director.

"God has painted broad healing strokes through the lives of loving disaster relief volunteers who have come to meet the needs created by the devastation of this hurricane," said Simpkins, who is serving as on-site coordinator for the multi-state response.

The Brotherhood Commission of Memphis, Tenn., began coordinating the disaster response with the Baptist Convention of New England and Greater Boston Baptist Association leaders as Hurricane Bob made its course through the Atlantic Ocean toward land.

Local officials estimate that damage on Cape Cod to public property will exceed \$12 million. Massachusetts Lt. Gov. A. Paul Cellucci is predicting a total price tag of \$1 billion to public and private property.

The Brotherhood Commission placed disaster relief crews on standby Monday morning (Aug. 19) to await damage assessment immediately following Hurricane Bob's strike.

Volunteers from Kentucky, Maryland, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and West Virginia have staffed the response thus far. Additional volunteers from Tennessee, South Carolina, and Virginia are expected this week, Simpkins said.

This is the first out-of-state response for Indiana and Michigan disaster relief volunteers.

"The main thing you have done is show these people Jesus Christ," Simpkins told volunteers during a daily debriefing. "Some of them are Christians. Most of them don't know what being a Christian means."

"What they know of Christ or what they are beginning to see of Christ is what they are seeing in you. You can rest assured that you have done a monumental task... most importantly in spiritual things."

Disaster relief crews didn't come to Cape Cod to start Baptist work, but there have been some miracles along the way, Simpkins said.

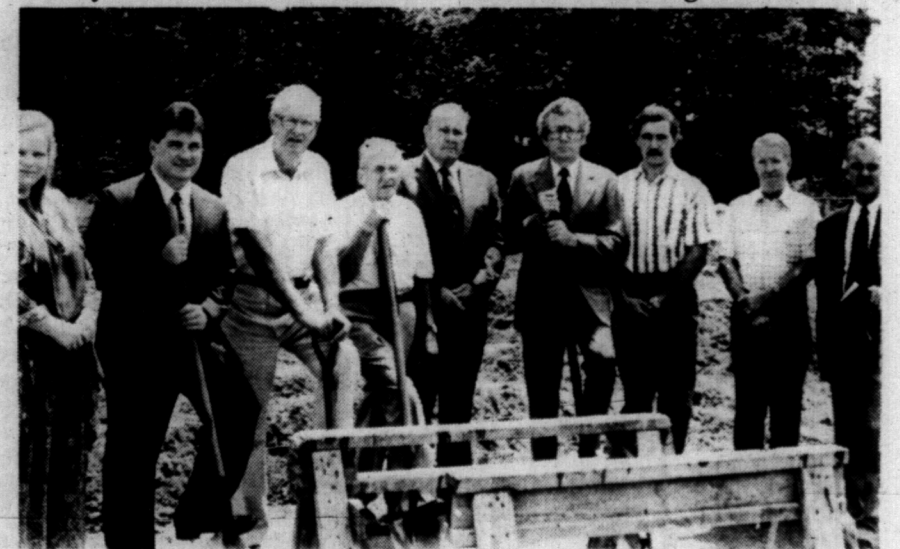
Saturday morning, Simpkins and C.A. Easterling, Brotherhood Commission trustee from Kentucky, met a couple in Falmouth who are Southern Baptists and wish for a church there. With a positive presence established in Falmouth by volunteers through disaster relief, a new church start now seems possible.

"That is a full-circle Holy Spirit move where He is coming in from the back side and advancing out the front side," Simpkins said.

"There was an attempt at a Bible study in Falmouth several years ago," said Jack Parrott, associate executive director of the Greater Boston Baptist Association which includes Cape Cod. "We hope to follow up and possibly start a church there."

Simpkins stationed disaster relief crews in Swansea, Mass., and in Falmouth, Hyannis, and Chatham on Cape Cod. The Kentucky Brotherhood Disaster Relief Mobile Feeding Unit is preparing meals for satellite feeding in Swansea. The Ohio Brotherhood feeding unit is performing the same function in Hyannis. The American Red Cross is distributing

(See **CAPE COD** on page 4)



Mount Vernon Church, Webster County, had groundbreaking for its new church building on Aug. 18. Fire destroyed the former church building the night of May 20. Joining project architect Belinda J. Stewart (left) and Pastor Sonny Redwine (right) in the groundbreaking are building committee members Russell Hood (second from left), Jerry Woods, Lagrone Cooper, Luther Sykes, Robert Lynn Watson, Mike Perigen, and Terrell Wood. The congregation is now using a mobile chapel provided by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Work continues on the foundation for the new church.



# A conversation with Criswell

By Anne W. McWilliams



W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Church, Dallas, since 1944, preached Aug. 26 in Clinton at Morrison Heights' "Summer Splendor." In an interview before he preached, he said he almost entirely quit speaking at out-of-state meetings 10 years ago, because of responsibilities in his own church. He said he knew Ken Alford, Morrison Heights pastor, when Alford was a student at Southwestern Seminary.

First Church, Dallas, with 28,000 members, had only one pastor before Criswell — George Truett, for 47 years. This month Criswell completes 47 years there. (He's been a pastor 64 years.) Last January Joel Gregory was called as pastor and Criswell became senior pastor. In 1968 and 1969 he was president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Dressed in a grey suit and grey tie, rather than his famous white suit and red tie, he beamed, "I'm 82, and still feel like a boy!"

What do you predict about the future of the SBC? Will Southern Baptists get back together? "Yes, but it may take a long time. We don't need another Cooperative Pro-

gram. We don't need another seminary. I don't think the split-off group can continue in power and numerical strength."

What do you think will bring them together? "I think the Spirit of the Lord — loving the Lord and preaching the gospel."

What has been the biggest change in your own church and in the denomination since you began your ministry? "The biggest change lies in our colleges and seminaries. In Texas, we are in a traumatic time with Baylor, right this minute, trying to separate themselves from the Texas convention. I am unspeakably sad about this." He listed several colleges and universities he said had "pulled out" or "outlined a program of pulling out," and added, "We've lost all our universities in the north."

Why do you suppose this has happened? "They looked with scorn on those who believe the Bible is the Word of God."

(Here I said to him, "Do you really believe that those preachers in the Fellowship don't believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God? Some preachers in it I've known for many years. I've heard them preach, and they always sounded to me as if they believe the Bible is wholly true." "Well, then," he said, "why are they in the Fellowship?" And I told him, "Maybe they don't like to be bossed!" He laughed.)

What is your advice to young preachers? "That's where it's all coming from — the controversy — young preachers come out of the schools and preach that the Bible is full of myths and legends and then their churches die, and the institutions die . . ."

Your advice? "Preach that the Bible is the revelation of God."

Are you writing any books now? "My latest one, on heaven, is being published by Tyndale. The title has not yet been decided." (He has written 54 books.)

What are you reading? "I'm still teaching in Criswell College and still preaching one sermon every Sunday. Practically all the reading I do is in preparation for school work and sermons. Spurgeon is No. 1 with me, above everybody else. Then I read all the great commentaries, and books that are on the Bible. I'm preaching from Mark now. Earlier in my ministry at Dallas, I preached all the way through the Bible, 18 times."

What is the greatest misconception about you? "That I am dogmatic!"

## CAPE COD

From page 3

meals to several communities on Cape Cod.

For the first three days, the Ohio unit operated from the parking lot of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Hyannis. This is the home church of the late President John F. Kennedy. His mother, Rose, still attends when she is able, said local officials.

In Falmouth, Southern Baptist chain saw crews have worked alongside Department of Public Works and Massachusetts Turnpike Authority crews.

Volunteers reported comments

from local crews about their "accents."

"They said we talked funny," said Jim Thompson of Barbourville, Ky. But once the professional maintenance workers learned that the Southern Baptists were volunteers, their attitude changed.

"Well, if you guys are volunteers and aren't getting paid," Thompson reported one workman as saying, "I'm not going to say you talk funny anymore."

"I explained that through the love of Christ we get more than money," said Reggie Morgan Jr., of Barbourville. "It really shocked them."

Burton writes for Brotherhood Commission.

## State WMU makes plan for "Growing Strong"

"Growing Strong" is the title of a new three-year plan for Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union which begins with the 1991-92 church year. The plan includes strategies for the local church, the association, and the state. The goal of the plan is to increase WMU membership and number of WMU organizations in Mississippi Baptist churches. WMU organizations include Baptist Women, Baptist Young Women, Acteens, Girls In Action, and Mission Friends.

Although Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union ranks high in the percentage of churches that have at least one WMU organization (67%), there has been a drop in state-wide enrollment for the last two years. This causes concern that women, girls, and preschoolers in many Mississippi Baptist churches are not being afford-

ed the opportunity for missions education. A decrease in enrollment indicates a decrease in the number of people studying about, praying for, giving to, and involving themselves in missions.

In an effort to turn this situation around, WMU organizations across the state are being asked to participate in "Growing Strong." The program's objectives include organizing for growth, starting new units, increasing membership, improving relationships with pastors and their wives, attempting to attract women in the 40-59 age-group, and seeking ways to enhance the WMU image.

Anyone interested in knowing more about "Growing Strong" or receiving material about the program should contact the WMU office at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, 968-3800.

## MOODY

From page 3

for SBC president in 1966, when he lost to H. Franklin Paschall of Nashville, Tenn. Moody was president of the SBC Pastors' Conference in 1965.

Moody said he was picked by Letzring and his committee because he is one of the most prominent SBC figures who has not taken sides in the dispute.

Moody got the attention of many Southern Baptists last summer when in a widely circulated article he said the current divisive course of the SBC would lead to the convention's destruction in "two years or less."

The article, printed in many state Baptist newspapers, called on fundamental-conservatives to share power with moderate-conservatives in proportion with the presidential vote, which has averaged about 55% to 45% during the controversy. And he called on leaders of both sides to repent of political wrongdoing.

"The method we have used to get healing has failed," Moody said in an interview Aug. 28. "All the (presidents since 1979) have done a good job."

"I'm not mad at anybody on either side. But they haven't succeeded at getting the job done."

Moody said that because of his concern for the denomination he "reluctantly agreed" when Letzring asked him to allow his nomination.

"I will not run," Moody said of the presidency. "I will allow my name to be put up, but I will not lift a finger to get it."

Both Moody and Letzring said they are dependent on a grass-roots endorsement of their goal.

"If there is no groundswell," Moody said, "if there is a lukewarm, lackadaisical response, then I would bow out by December."

Moody listed seven things he would do if elected. "The first thing I'd do is demand a recount," he joked.

To begin the SBC's healing, Moody said, he would:

- Consult the leaders of all "reasonable factions who believe the Bible to be truly God's Word" and make sure both sides are represented in his presidential appointments;

- Call for a campaign to baptize 1 million people in 1994 and maintain that level of baptisms for a decade;

- Call for "a return to strong revival meetings" in local churches, spearheaded by the SBC Home Mission Board;

- Call for a "return to old-fashioned Sunday school evangelism, teaching the department heads to offer an evangelistic invitation regularly in their classes";

- Conduct a national soul-winning conference in 1993, led by the HMB and SBC Sunday School Board; and

- Call for the "dissolution" of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Atlanta-based moderate-conservative organization that eschews political activity but advocates diverting money from SBC causes.

Moody said this last plank in his presidential platform is "the one that will get me defeated." While he acknowledged many moderate-conservatives would consider his one-year reform inadequate, Moody added:

"You have to crawl before you walk. I can only do what I can do as one man."

"Although the Atlanta group is

small, they are profound in influence," he said, adding that many people who can't join the movement are nonetheless sympathetic.

Moody said people on both sides of the 12-year SBC controversy have labeled his refusal to take sides as cowardice. "But it takes more courage to lose all your friends than to lose half of them," he said.

"I'm trying to build a bridge between these two groups, who secretly love each other," Moody said. "And I want them to let the secret out, because a waiting world is watching, and they're not very impressed."

Warner is editor of Associated Baptist Press.

## Collins area vols do mission work for Colorado church

The Community Christian Group, representing various churches in the Collins area, left Aug. 11 for a week-long volunteer effort at the Mountain View Baptist Church, Dolores, Colo.

The group completed half of the soft-work (underside of arch, vault, or beam) at Mountain View. When complete, the church will contain approximately 4,000 square feet of space. The team also partially primed and completely painted the back wall of the church and the 169 feet of trim. Mountain View's pastor, Ray White, his wife, Jane, and members helped each day.

Nine members of the group from the Collins area were L. V. Shoemaker, Bill Lott, Dan Pickering, Madene O'Neal, Melisa McLeod, and Rachel Sanford. The effort was coordinated by Glenn Shoemaker, pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church.

## Criswell College researcher heads for CLC staff

DALLAS (ABP) — Keith Ninomiya, who for most of the past decade has chronicled the Southern Baptist controversy for Criswell College and its president, Paige Patterson, may soon begin plying his research talents at the SBC Christian Life Commission.

Richard Land, executive director of the CLC, acknowledged he will hire Ninomiya as the agency's researcher and archivist if CLC trustees approve the staff-level position during their meeting Sept. 10-12. Ninomiya probably will start Nov. 1, Land said.

According to Patterson, who has supervised Ninomiya's work for "eight or nine years," Ninomiya's task has been "to collect everything written and said that impinges on events of the last 12 years" in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Ninomiya reportedly has amassed the most complete record of the SBC controversy anywhere, providing Patterson and others with details in their campaign against liberalism in the denomination.

Patterson described the former Criswell College student as "a living, walking, breathing computer, the type that gets all the information."

Recent budget cuts at Criswell forced the elimination of Ninomiya's position, Patterson said.

Land, who worked with Ninomiya when Land was dean of Criswell Col-

lege, called his former and perhaps future associate "a genius." But Land said the researcher's role at the CLC will be different than at Criswell.

"Keith is being hired because of his intuitive expertise as a researcher and his uncanny ability to generate information and keep it at his fingertips," Land explained. "We have discussed at length his research within the convention controversy. His activities for the CLC will involve research, archiving, and filing in the areas within our program assignment."

"He will not in any way, shape, or form, on CLC resources, on CLC premises, or on CLC time, be involved in the activities which have occupied some of his time in the past," Land said.

"He will not be doing any research on convention controversy issues while he's on the CLC's nickel," Land continued. "I have been offended enough at the impropriety of convention agency personnel engaging in convention controversy activities in the past that I wanted to make it absolutely clear . . . that he is coming here to use his God-given abilities for the service of the Christian Life Commission and the Southern Baptist Convention."

Ninomiya, a graduate of the University of Hawaii, could not be reached for comment.



# The Kyzars: discipling through music missions

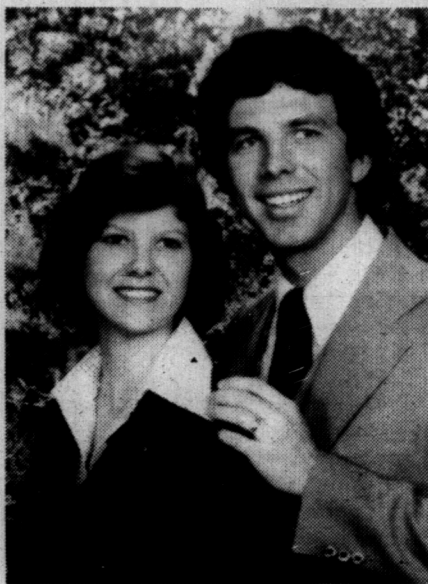
By Greg Smith

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — Mississippian missionaries Russell and Melinda Kyzar are discipling Costa Ricans through music.

"My job as a missionary involved seeing people mature in their musical skills so they will put their knowledge into practice through church and evangelistic work," said Kyzar, a first-term Southern Baptist missionary in Costa Rica.

The Kyzars, from Natchez and Clinton, Miss., respectively, have done church music promotion in the tiny Central American republic since 1987. In July they returned to Mississippi for their first furlough. They are living in the missionary house of First Church, Clinton.

Church music promotion keeps the Kyzars busy in Costa Rica. Both Melinda and her husband, a former minister of music at Trinity Church in Kerrville, Texas, teach music classes and give private piano and organ lessons. They also are choir and



Melinda and Russell Kyzar

ensemble directors, accompanists, and resource people in the sale and distribution of music literature. But

none of this is as important to them as training local church leaders.

Recently the couple and their children — Ryan, Ross, and Robyn — traveled to The Light and Life Baptist Church of San Isidro del General to do a music workshop. "I had already gone to all four corners of the country on ministry trips, but this was the first time we had done a four-day workshop as a family, kids and all!" noted Kyzar.

There the missionary couple taught keyboard and singing skills. "Following three days of music training we had a glorious service of praise and celebration on Sunday," Kyzar said.

Through the Hatillo church the Kyzars led a "Musical Bible School," a Vacation Bible School consisting of Bible stories and music activities. "The goal was to prepare five songs for presentation in a special service for parents," Kyzar said. "The 50 children who came participated by singing solos as well as playing handbells and the keyboard."

The pastor then tied it all together with an evangelistic message on parental guidance and responsibility based on the Christian faith. At the end of the service two mothers accepted Christ as Savior and six children responded to the gospel.

Before missionary appointment, the Kyzars did volunteer missions in the Rio Grande area, Brazil, and Australia.

Melinda owes much of her love for missions to her parents, Guy and Lois Henderson. For 20 years they were Southern Baptist missionaries in South Korea and the Philippines before moving to Mississippi. She traces her missions call to the time she was a high school junior and her parents were speakers at Foreign Missions Week at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center. Henderson is now editor of the Baptist Record.

Kyzar recalled taking the United Baptist Choir of Costa Rica to sing in the community of Liverpool during Christmas 1989. Sponsored by the

Liverpool Baptist Church, the choir sang in the community's open-air plaza while church members passed out evangelistic tracts. Several people accepted Christ as Savior through the presentation, and now attend the Liverpool Baptist Church.

The Kyzar's music ministry includes more than training at the local church level. Besides teaching classes at the seminary, Russell and Melinda help plan, direct, and teach at the annual Baptist Music Camp at the Baptist campground outside San Jose. The music camp was postponed this year because a severe earthquake had damaged the camp's facilities. But in previous years the camp has been the setting of many spiritual decisions. At the 1989 music camp, 15 young people dedicated themselves to advanced training at the Baptist seminary in Costa Rica.

Greg Smith is Southern Baptist missionary press representative in Costa Rica.

## Church literature distribution is crucial to church programs

By Charles Willis

NASHVILLE — Receiving needed literature in an accurate and timely manner may be second only in importance to doctrinal soundness, comments, and ordering habits of some churches indicate.

While the Sunday School Board streamlined its literature distribution system in September 1990, allowing adequate time to place and receive orders continues to be important.

Foothills Southern Baptist Church in Yuma, Ariz., has ordered Sunday School Board materials since it became a mission in 1971.

Though it is hundreds of miles from the board and not centrally located to delivery systems, Foothills Church always has its literature available to teachers and leaders a month or more ahead of the upcoming church quarter.

"We rely on and depend on the consistency we receive from the board," he said. "If there is a piece missing from the shipment, nine times out of 10 the mistake was on our part, and if we have failed to order something we normally get, we'll get a call asking if this was on purpose. That saves us time and money."

Bob Tuggle, Sunday School director, has placed the church's literature order for 17 years, and he is a stickler for early ordering. Since the church attendance fluctuates greatly throughout the year with "snowbirds" who move in and out with the seasons, predicting needs is a challenge. But by looking at the previous quarter's figures and those of the previous year, he manages to place a quarterly order by the suggested order date.

Even further away from Nashville, in Indio, Calif., Susan Roper looks for Central Church's literature order to arrive up to two months before the new quarter begins.

Almost two years ago the church switched from placing an order each quarter to placing a standing order. Since standing orders are shipped from Nashville before other orders, Roper said she no longer finds herself "just making it by the skin of my teeth."

Like many of her fellow Southern Baptists, Roper said she was prone to procrastinate. She describes having a standing order as "easier and dependable."

Back in Nashville, the process of providing accurate, timely delivery is no small task. Of those who order church literature, approximately 80% place orders after the suggested order date.

Shipment of orders is based not only on the date the order was received in Nashville, but also on the shipping zone. Packages going further away are shipped ahead of those to neighboring states, but only within the "batch" of orders received in the same day. Being at the farthest point from Nashville is not an advantage to the last-minute customer.

With so much competition for accurate, timely delivery, the situation might seem hopeless. But for the fall quarter, 1991, Foothills Southern Baptist Church in Yuma, Ariz., ordered before the suggested date of July 18 and received its materials on Aug. 1; Central Church in Indio, Calif., responded to the standing order form by the July 12 deadline, and received literature on Aug. 8.

The suggested order date for 1992 winter quarter literature is Oct. 18. Willis writes for BSSB.



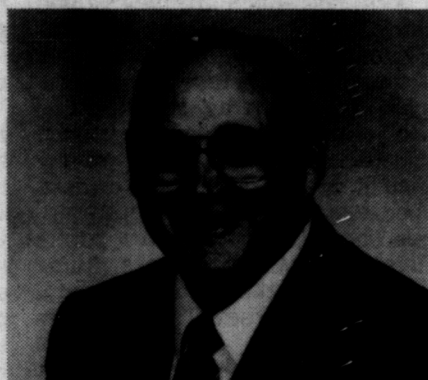
NASHVILLE — Lura Pickney in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's distribution services division sorts the morning's delivery of literature orders. Mail orders accompanied by payment receive a five percent discount. Even so, more orders are received each quarter by telephone. (BSSB photo by Jim Veneman.)

## Missionary news

Emogene Harris, missionary to Nigeria, is on the field (address: P. O. Box 610, Enugu, Nigeria). She is a native of Johns, Miss.

Gerry Odom, missionary to Taiwan, is on the field (address: P. O. Box 30-134, Taipei 100, Taiwan ROC). Born in El Dorado, Ark., she also lived in Arkansas; Washington, Miss.; and Texas, while growing up.

Millard and Susan Jones, Baptist representatives to Canada, are on the field (address: Willow Reach Apts., Suite 101, 825 W. 8th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1, Canada). A native of Texas, he was appointed a missionary to Taiwan in 1985. The former Susan Puckett, a native of Columbus, Miss., was appointed a missionary to Taiwan in 1986. After their marriage in March 1991, they transferred to Canada.



Carlie Hill has accepted a part time position in the Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Now part time bus pastor and minister of outreach at Parkway Church, Jackson, he will develop in Jackson what Bill Causey, executive director, MBCB, called "Sunday day care," a pilot program for children of parents who work on Sundays and who don't go to church anywhere. A graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary, Hill, 63, has been at Parkway since 1974. He retired from doing that job full time last year, but remained in it half time.

## WMU's Bobbie Sorrill weds Patterson

By Susan Todd Doyle

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Bobbie Sorrill, associate executive director for Woman's Missionary Union, and Arthur "Art" L. Patterson, pastor of First Church of Mason, Ohio, were married in Birmingham, Ala., Aug. 24.

The announcement was a surprise to the staff at WMU, who were informed on Aug. 26 the wedding had taken place. Sorrill and Patterson had hinted for months they would marry before the end of the year. But the couple wanted the ceremony to be private and without fanfare, with only immediate family and a few close friends in attendance.

The couple has not announced residence location or career plans.

Sorrill and Patterson met about four years ago when they were introduced by Carolyn and Joe Crumpler. At that

time, Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler was executive director of WMU. Joe Crumpler is pastor of Mt. Carmel Church in Cincinnati. Both Sorrill and Patterson participated in the Crumplers' wedding in August 1989.

Sorrill has been with WMU since 1968. Currently she directs the missions program system which is responsible for designing and implementing church WMU and associational WMU programs.

Patterson has been pastor of the Mason's First Church since 1968. He has been active in all levels of leadership within the Southern Baptist Convention.

Patterson's marriage to Sorrill is his second. His first wife, Jeanette Benson Patterson, died in 1977 after an extended illness. This is Sorrill's first marriage.

Patterson has three children — Nancy Carol Patterson, an aquatics director in Redwood City, Calif.; Alicia Margaret Patterson Cowell, a broker living in Mason, Ohio; and Laurie Alycen Patterson, a student at Baylor University.

The bride's brother, Harold W. Sorrill Jr. of Clinton, Md., performed the ceremony. June Whitlow, associate executive director of WMU, was the bride's attendant. Patterson's brother-in-law, Ron Howard of Austin, Texas, was his attendant. Music for the wedding was provided by Bill and Dellanna O'Brien. Dellanna O'Brien is executive director of WMU. Bill O'Brien, is director of the Global Center of the Beeson Divinity School at Samford University.

Doyle writes for WMU.





# Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



## Millie writes from Maine

We on the Baptist Record staff have a celebrity among us! Betty Anne Bailey's dog, Tippy, got a postcard, dated Aug. 11, 1991, from Millie, with news of her owners, Barbara and George Bush. I haven't read the book by that dog, Millie, yet, but now I'm determined to do so right away.

Here's the story: Tippy (with the aid of Betty Anne), sent a letter to Millie, complimented her on her book, told her how talented she is, and invited her to come to the South for a visit. They sent the letter by Marcie Skelton, daughter of Episcopal bishop, John Allin, and his wife. The Allins are friends of the Bushes, I understand. Along with the letter went Tippy's picture, with her Easter basket. The answer came from Walker's Point, Kennebunkport, Maine 04046:

Dear Tippy — Thank you for your very nice letter. I promptly showed Bar and "The Prez" the Easter picture . . . . They don't have a basket or a hunt for me!

George and I missed seeing or meeting Marcie Skelton. He was in Washington and I had trouble connecting. As her mother and father are our dear friends, this was sad!

7 of our 12 "grands" are here and Ranger Boy and I are feeling a little neglected! You are a very beautiful handsome pup!

Warmly,  
Millie



Tippy guards her card.

I went swimming the other night with a mouse. Or a rat. It was late, maybe 9:30, and I was alone in the quiet of the motel pool. That is, I thought I was alone. The nearly full moon had lighted up northeastern Arkansas and drawn a path across the water in front of me. Into that path floated a big leaf which suddenly turned at a 90-degree angle, like a soldier on parade.

"A leaf?" I thought. A leaf would not change its course like that." I looked again. It was furry and had a long tale. A mouse? Or a small rat? How little it took to smash my sense of relaxation and security. I eased, in a wide circle, toward the steps. "W.D.," I called at our door, "Come help me save a mouse from drowning!" He came, but we couldn't find the creature. I guess it had gone through a drain. (I'm not sure W.D. believed me.)

Now I feared the dark edges of the water and I did not return until the Saturday morning sunlight chased away my uncertainty. By daytime reasoning, I wondered, "Why did I let such a little thing as that mouse (or rat) spoil the tranquility of my evening swim?"

Yet I have let petty interruptions spoil and stress many a day. Maybe I could turn them into something positive. Maybe I could thicken my skin and not let them get to me so. Maybe I could follow one man's advice to get rid of "catastrophic thinking." He said, "It's not so much what happens to you as how you react to what happens to you that counts!"

And that brings me to another episode of what's been happening in my life.

On a Saturday morning at the Barnett Reservoir, I was fishing in a nice breeze, a blue striped umbrella over me, a bit like a sail. Reading as I fished, I didn't realize my minnow was gone. Suddenly I felt a jerk on the pole. I dropped my book and stood, ready for the battle. "It must be a bass," I said, "or a whale!" I leaned back and pulled up hard. A little white perch was hanging — caught by its tail — from the empty hook. Now wouldn't you think an empty hook wouldn't be any good for catching fish? But not so. It's all in the way you look at it.

## Letters to the editor

### God-called women

Editor:

There are many sad features in the fundamentalist take-over of our convention, but to me one of the saddest is the determined effort to relegate women to an inferior position in the Lord's kingdom work. Justification for this is based on 1 Timothy 2:8-15 and 1 Corinthians 14:34-35.

If Jesus anywhere in either his ministry or in his teaching had supported such a view, I could give more credence to these passages as instructions for the future conduct of all Christian churches. Actually, I find just the contrary.

When God was ready to give the world a Savior he gave a woman the privilege of being his parent. No man was so honored. Looking at the ministry of Jesus, in Mark 12:41-44 Jesus sat in a crowded place watching the multitudes making their offerings and selected from that crowd a woman as being the most righteous of all. In Luke 7:36-50 Jesus accorded to a woman a quality of righteousness superior to that of his host, who was one of the religious leaders of that day. In Matthew 22:6-13 Jesus proclaimed the righteousness of a woman to be superior to that of his own disciples, to which he added this comment: "Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done shall also be spoken of in her memory." At no point in his ministry did he so honor a man.

In John 19:25-27 the last act of Jesus before his death was to make provision for his mother, a woman. When he rose from the grave his first appearance was to a woman (John 20:14-17, Matthew 28:1-10, and Mark 16:9), and he sent her to proclaim the good news and give instructions to his apostles.

Even Paul in his more inspired moment wrote, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ

Jesus" (Gal. 3:28).

In early Southern Baptist life our forefathers would not allow women a voice in convention affairs, so in order to put their missionary zeal into action they were forced to organize themselves apart from the convention in Woman's Missionary Union.

Most Southern Baptist churches have greatly impoverished the quality of their work by often times electing men of poor quality and commitment as deacons while brilliant and deeply devout women in the church were denied that position. They have also closed their pulpits to brilliant, devout, and God-called women while those pulpits were often filled with meager ability, and sometimes with character that was a disgrace to the Lord's kingdom. All of this because of the opinion of one man who lived nearly 2,000 years ago and who grew up among a people who believed a woman's only function in the world was to serve men.

Some of the finest, most dedicated, and hardest-working deacons I ever had during my years in the ministry were women, and I would challenge any man to give me any sensible reason why they should not have been there.

Ryburn T. Stancil  
Brookhaven

### Sexual immorality

Editor:

My heart truly goes out to the parent of the homosexual child in "Understand the Need" in the Aug. 1 edition of *The Baptist Record*. I feel deeply for this person in two ways. First for the isolation and rejection they must feel each time preachers take a stand and preach against sexual immorality. They must feel we are attempting to shoot the wounded when in fact we are attempting to protect the innocent from being exploited. It is not our desire for you or your son or daughter to feel rejection or embarrassment. It is not your child we are preaching against; it is the sin of

homosexuality. The doors of God's house are open to all who are sick with sin.

And this is the second reason I feel so deeply for this parent. They have been sold a bill of goods from the humanistic world. Friend, no one is born gay or lesbian. It was a decision made in the darkness of sin while being actively recruited by others participating in this lifestyle. I feel for them because they are victims of the enemy. But we cannot, we must not blame God for their sin. God created us with a natural attraction for the opposite sex. It is an unnatural (or supernatural) attraction for homosexuals to desire each other. An attraction known only in nature to mankind. God hates this sin as much as any other but he loves this sinner as much as any other and he sent his son to die for their sin. We do love you and we will pray for you and your children, that they may be delivered from the darkness of sin into his glorious light. Perhaps all of us can focus our prayers together against the sin and not the sinner.

Jeffery L. Bosley  
Red Banks, Mississippi

Note: We have received dozens of letters concerning the letter of the woman who asked for sympathy for parents of homosexuals. As pointed out, homosexuals are not born that way and can change. Practically all the letters mentioned much the same thing and often the same scripture. Thus we seek to make this the last letter we run concerning this issue. — Editor

### Religious values

Editor:

In response to the excellent article, "Handbasket To Hell Alive And Well" (*Baptist Record*, August 8, 1991) by Vernon Sikes, concerning the sorry state of morals in America, I would like to discuss forces that have led to this break down of morals. Starting about 50 years ago, Americans started taking their moral leadership from

our laws instead of religious values.

James Madison opposed the "Bill of Rights" because he believed non-religious people could and would use the "Bill of Rights" to repress religion. We now know he had good reasons for his fears. Under the cause of religious freedom and separation of church and state, prayer and the Bible were removed from our schools. Now anyone who makes a religious statement in public is subject to ridicule. The press and intellectuals reject anyone running for office who states his values come from the Bible. America has gone from a nation that encouraged and respected religion to a nation that has outlawed religion in public institutions.

The acceptance of women having children out of wedlock started when we started with payments to dependent children (ADC). ADC coupled with legal abortions, child abuse has become epidemic. After all, if it is legal to take the life of a baby before it's born, how much are they valued at birth?

Premarital and extramarital sex has become acceptable, if not expected. In the name of individual freedom and freedom of expression, homosexuality is becoming an accepted life style. Churches are criticized because they do not accept practicing homosexuals. Very few public officials or psychologists are willing to address the problem of premarital and extramarital sex. Their answers to these problems are birth control and so called safe sex. In their view, the rights of the individual are more important than the harm their actions are costing themselves and our society.

Before the sixties, movie producers were concerned with the morals of the country and avoided subjects that might harm the morals of the viewing public. After prayer and the Bible were taken out of our schools and the courts had ruled that it violated a non-religious person's civil rights to expose him to religious material, Hollywood stopped making movies

that showed religion in a positive way. Hollywood followed the lead of the courts. After all, if religion is illegal in our schools and violates a person's civil rights, why put it in movies? Hollywood does not have any problems making movies that are satanic or based on New Age or occult themes. Pornography is common in movies, because it has been judged by the courts to benefit society.

Behaviorism and humanistic psychology are the most popular in our schools. Behaviorism puts the responsibility for the student learning on the teachers. The teacher's role is to motivate the students to learn. If a student does not learn, it is the teacher's fault because they failed to motivate their students. The word "motivate" comes from the word "motive" which means the reason for the action. The teachers are to give the students a reason to learn. Behavior places no responsibility to learn on the student. Under humanism, the students should be given the freedom to find their true selves. Sexual development is part of developing the total personality.

We wonder why our schools are failing when compared with other countries. They are teaching and training their students. They encourage and expect children to learn. They also teach facts. With very little discipline, we try to educate our students. Instead of facts, our students are expected to learn so called higher thinking skills and creativity. They are trained to look up facts. How someone can think intelligently and be creative without knowing facts about the subject they are working on, I will never know. Education is a democratic idea that gives the students the right to learn or not to learn. It places the responsibility on the teacher to motivate the students to learn. When you send a child to school to be taught, it is his responsibility to learn and the teacher's responsibility to teach the subject matter.

Samuel K. Farmer  
Clinton, MS



# HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 5, 1991

HOUSETOPS is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



## Faith Bridges Cultural Gaps

by William Maxwell, Personnel Director, MBCB

On our recent trip to the Soviet Union my wife and I had the unique opportunity to share our faith with people of another culture and another religious background. The people of the Soviet Republic, Kazakhstan, are Moslem by heritage. However, because of the decades of religious suppression, we found them to be very open to us sharing our faith. Sharing your faith with someone from a different culture is not really much different than sharing your faith with your next-door neighbor. After all, witnessing is really just telling someone about your personal experience with Christ. There are few things you should keep in mind when sharing your witness with someone from a different culture. We found the following ideas helpful:

1. Your role is to be a witness. The Bible teaches us to share our own witness. Leave judgement and conviction to the Holy Spirit. Sow the seed and pray for the harvest.
2. Be open. Witnessing is a two-way conversation. Be an active listener. Allow the other person to share about herself and her beliefs. This may give the opportunity for further discussions.
3. See the other person as an individual not as a label. He is not a Moslem first and a Person second, but someone who identifies himself as a Moslem in at least some areas of his life.
4. Find common ground on which you can agree. Affirm points of their with which you can agree, without giving up any of your allegiance to Christ.
5. Ask questions. Show an interest in her as an individual. We found it particularly effective in the Soviet Union to ask questions about the faith of their grandparents, many of whom were Christians.
6. Be careful of religious words. Church words that we are familiar with will have different meanings to other faiths. Also, many religious terms are difficult to translate.

*Paraphrased and condensed from Interfaith Witnessing: A Guide for Southern Baptists. Glenn Igleheart, Foreign Mission Board, SBC.*

To learn about the many opportunities which are available for you to share your faith around the world, including the Soviet Union, contact the Foreign Mission Board, Volunteers In Missions Department, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230-0767.

Contact the Brotherhood or Woman's Missionary Union Departments at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to learn about the exciting opportunities in the country of Zimbabwe on the African continent. **HT**

## Hear and Do

James 1:22



LOUIE GIGLIO,  
Director,  
Choice Ministries,  
Waco, TX

## Colonial Heights Baptist Church September 27-29 1991

### SEMINAR TOPICS

- Dealing with materialism
- Developing a positive self-image
- Discovering God's will
- Disciplines of the Christian life
- Addictions and bondage
- Vacation Bible School in Summer

For more information, contact:

## STATE STUDENT CONVENTION

Contact your local  
Student Union for Details

## The Missing Ingredient

By Indy Whitten,  
Prayer Coordinator, MBCB

When I was a Baptist missionary in the Canary Islands (Spain) I had a memorable experience in connection with a potluck dinner. My assigned contribution was a casserole. I decided on a tuna casse-

role, and followed the recipe very carefully—so I thought—and checked and re-checked to see that I had put in everything called for. The result looked satisfactory, so I covered it with aluminum foil to be baked at the home of the hostess of the occasion. When I opened the casserole to pop into the oven, I discovered much to my dismay that I had put in everything but the tuna.

In retrospect, this might be considered a type of parable. What is it that has been omitted from individual Christian lives and from the lives of churches? Could prayer be one of the missing ingredients? Or even the main ingredient? It isn't that prayer isn't remembered, talked about and practiced as an expected and necessary part of church services, but it can so easily fall into the business-as-usual

*continued on back of HouseTops*



# MAXIMIZING VIDEO'S POTENTIAL IN TRAINING

**September 16, 1991** - *Calvary Baptist Church, Tupelo*

**September 17, 1991** - *Lauderdale Baptist Association Office, Meridian*

**September 19, 1991** - *First Baptist Church, Gulfport*

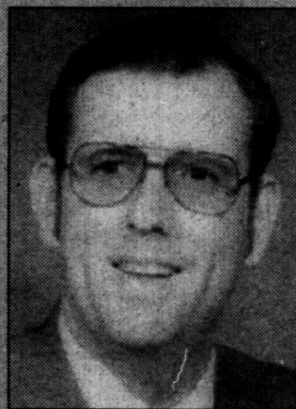
**Conference Time:** 7:00-8:30 p.m.

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**Conference Leader** - Chip Turner, Director of Media Services for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria, LA

**Sponsored by:** Department of Broadcast Services  
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CHIP TURNER

## Gulfshore Sunday School Leadership . . . Here's the Report

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"I was in doubt about my decision to teach in 91-92. After attending Gulfshore I will continue to teach."

"I will try to take the enthusiasm passed on to me through the teacher of my conference back to my church and pass it on to them."

"The weekend was a wonderful uplifting experience. I only pray our whole Sunday School Department could experience this."

The last Sunday School weekend of '91 will be September 13-14. Sign up today. Contact Frank Simmons for housing (601) 452-7261. **HT**

## New Directory Compiles SBC Study Opportunities

Workshops, lectures, specialized conferences and short-term courses scheduled on the Southern Baptist seminary campuses are listed in the 1991-92 Directory of Continuing Education Opportunities for Ministers just published by Seminary Extension.

The purpose of the directory is to help people throughout the country know about the various learning opportunities available, according to Seminary Extension's executive director, Doran C. McCarty.

"Continuing education events are scheduled on the seminary campuses throughout the year," McCarty points out, "but often the alumni of individual schools are the only ones who hear about things held on those campuses."

Information for the directory was gathered from all six SBC seminaries and several other convention agencies. Year-around schedules for the Sunday School Board's Church Program Training Center and Ridgecrest and Glorieta conference centers are included. The volume also lists dates and descriptions of annual conferences conducted by the Christian Life, Historical, and Stewardship Commissions.

The publication covers events planned for August 1991 through July 1992. Most last only one or two days, although some are scheduled for a week or more.

A subject index allows persons using the directory to find learning opportunities in particular area of interest easily.

Price of the directory is \$4.00, but Seminary Extension has announced an introductory price of \$3.00 for orders mailed by December 1.

Volume discounts are available for quantities of more than ten ordered by an SBC association, state convention, agency or institution.

All orders must be sent to Seminary Extension, 901 Commerce Street, Nashville, TN 37203. **HT**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKTHROUGH LAUNCH DAY

October 6, 1991, is the date churches across Mississippi should launch the "BREAKTHROUGH Teach To Win 1991-92" Sunday School year. Each church should develop a plan of action that will allow them to see a BREAKTHROUGH in the quality, quanti-

ty, and/or organization of the Sunday School during the next 12 months. The plan should contain activities that relate to enlistment and training of workers, starting new Sunday School units, and evaluating the work being done through the Sunday School

The group that should be an integral part of the development of the plan to be launched on October 6 is the Sunday School Council. The Council is comprised of the Sunday School leadership and church staff. In some churches this

would be the pastor, minister of education, Sunday School director, general officers, division directors and department directors. In other churches it would be the pastor, Sunday School director, and Sunday School teacher.

If a church would like assistance in preparing for the "1991 BREAKTHROUGH Launch Day", you may contact the Sunday School department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. **HT**





**R**egistration for the 1991 summer camp sessions at Central Hills Baptist Retreat totaled 1,053. This included 860 Royal Ambassadors and high School Baptist Young Men. It also included 193 Lad/Dad Campers.

Of the 860 R.A. and H.S.B.Y.M. Campers 169 made a profession of faith, 226 made rededication of life and 16 made a life vocation commitment. With the 22

miscellaneous decisions, the total decisions was 322.

These campers were ministered to by the regular staffers at Central Hills, student staffers and volunteer retiree staffers who are pictured here.

**FIRST ROW:** Boyd Herrington, Mathiston; Jamie Ramage, Kosciusko; Eric Kulkarni, Hatties-

burg; McKay Pearce, Purvis; Tate Cockrell, Laurel; Chris Dufrene, New Hebron; Trey Humphreys, Blue Springs; Dan West, Kosciusko.

**SECOND ROW:** Tim Smith, Ecru; Brian Cumberland, Philadelphia; Paul Rogers, Laurel; Chris Johnson, Kosciusko; Keith Holt, West; Peggy Tyler, Kosciusko; Pearl Ferrell, Brookhaven; Agnes Worrell, Ackerman; B. L. Worrell, Ackerman; Jonathan Miles, Amory.

**THIRD ROW:** Brian Bedsole, Biloxi; Kevin Ballard, Carrollton; Todd Watkins, Kosciusko; Dobby Daniel, New Iberia and Ellisville; Dwayne Parker, Laurel; Andy

Pittman, Tupelo; George Ferrell, Brookhaven; Leslie Love, Kosciusko; Doreatha Love, West; Dorothy Mallett, West.

**FOURTH ROW:** Scott Hoffman, Greenville; Stephen May, Quitman; Steve Maughan, Senatobia; Trent Holly, Vaiden; Toby Johnston, Carthage; J. T. Wright, Jr., Laurel; Scott Mangum, Moselle; David Moore, Fernandina Beach, FL; Robert Pickering, Laurel; Sam Allison, Columbus, Darren Miley, Crystal Springs.

**NOT PICTURED:** Alberta Elmore, Kosciusko, Johnnie Erving, West; Shawn Bigham, Ecru; Heath Cooper, Philadelphia; Mike Kelly, Jackson; Stacey Pickering, Jackson and Laurel; Scott Wilson, Clinton; Buddy and Cleo Hunt, Bossier City, LA; Curtis and Frankie Sue Power, Weir; June Shaw, Eupora; John and Catherine Sproles, Kosciusko; and Marty Ward, Pickens.

In addition to these staffers 15 volunteer counselors served one week at a time.

For each week of summer camp a guest missionary led the mission emphasis. The missionary personnel for 1991 were: Rev. and Mrs. Julio Diaz, FMB-Argentina, retired; Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Ballard, DOM Carroll-Montgomery Associations and FMB, Paraguay; Mr. and Mrs. Keith Allen, FMB - China, retired; Rev. and Mrs. Don Wilson, MBCB - Associational Missions and pioneer work; and Miss Mary Frank Kirkpatrick, FMB - Nigeria, retired. **HT**

## C'MON TO THE BAPTIST NURSING FELLOWSHIP RETREAT

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*Begins at 6 p.m. with supper  
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Saturday*

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Kaye Wilson - Refugee camps, Iraq  
Marsha Eaves, Regina Gunter - Honduras  
Shirley Chapman, Elaine Puckett - Australia  
**Installation of BNF Officers** - Debbie Smith, National BNF President-elect  
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### To register,

send the following information to WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205: name of conference; date of meeting; name, address, and telephone number of person registering; amount enclosed (\$21 per person). Make checks payable to: Woman's Missionary Union. **HT**

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**R** Conference  
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3:45 p.m. Tues.

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**30-31, 1991**

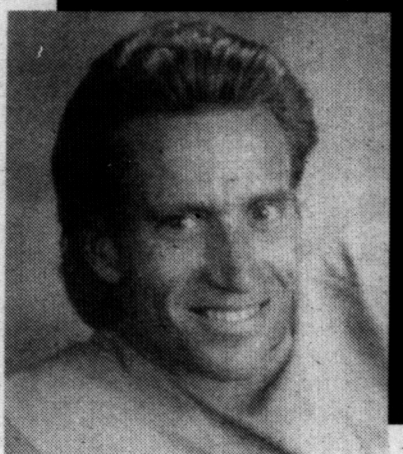
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of the  
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Missing Ingredient, continued from front page

feeling a normal way to begin and close a worship service, with prayer for the offering and the expected morning pastoral prayer. All of these are good, but prayer in all of its magnificent power needs to become more and more REAL to the congregation. "Lord, teach us to pray," becomes the heart cry of those in the pew.

An organized promotion of intercessory prayer touches Jerusalem, all Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

Baptist churches in Mississippi are discovering the need and challenge of a Bold Mission Prayer Thrust ministry in their churches. Mrs. David Miller Jr., is a Prayer Coordinator for the Lebanon Association. She says, "I want so much for every church to catch the

excitement of having some kind of Intercessory Prayer ministry. Ours at FBC, Hattiesburg, means so much to our church family. In the over two years we have had it, we have seen some remarkable answers to prayer."

First Church of Glendale, also of the Lebanon Association, celebrated its 100th anniversary on Sunday, Aug. 25. Pastor Brian Ivey speaks of the Centennial celebration as a first for him as a pastor and that he will remember it for a long time. The Brotherhood constructed a prayer chapel and bell tower. This chapel will be used as the church's prayer room. Alice Funderburk is the Prayer Coordinator of the church, and she has invited Alice Miller out to train the intercessors. Many are the com-

ments from Glendale, "This is certainly a unique prayer room!"

The world is full of needs. To use Woman's Missionary Union theme for this year, every single Christian is "called and accountable" When the "menu" for the church is being planned, intercessory prayer should be a priority ingredient... prayer for the pastor, the church, the association, the state, the nation and the world.

One of the saddest facts of life is to miss a blessing and an opportunity to serve God and others because of neglected intercessory prayer.

James said, "You have not because you ask not." **HT**

## Theological Training through Seminary Extension Courses

Seminary Extension is an ongoing opportunity for the continuing education of all people who need to equip themselves for more effective ministry.

The education program is based upon two basic convictions:

1. In today's world, every minister must continue to learn as long as he is in active service. The individual who stops learning immediately loses some effectiveness.
2. Every minister, regardless of the level of formal education completed, should have an equal opportunity to receive theological training. The Seminary Extension program is an instrument for making this training possible.

Seminary courses can be taken at a local extension center or by correspondence from the Independent Study Institute. There are many advantages to both methods of study and either can be tailored to personal needs.

For more information contact the certified center nearest you, or Richard Brogan, Mississippi Baptist Convention, Cooperative Missions Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530, phone (601) 968-3800, Ext. 3961.

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HOUSE OF GOD



# Convocation Wall of Fame recognizes veteran Sunday School teachers

NASHVILLE — Many Southern Baptists remember particular Sunday School teachers who impacted their lives but have never had a special way to honor them.

The Bible Teacher Wall of Fame to be displayed during the National Convocation on the Bible in Nashville on April 21-23, 1992, will provide Southern Baptists an opportunity to recognize veteran teachers God has used to share his Word, said David Apple, chairman of the convocation's Wall of Fame committee.

The committee is seeking nominations from Southern Baptist churches for teachers to include in the Wall of Fame.

The convocation is a celebration of the Bible and will feature a variety of activities including Bible teaching and preaching as well as 130 special-interest conferences.

Apple said the Wall of Fame will include all teachers nominated who fit the criteria.

Those nominated should have a minimum of 25 total years of Bible teaching experience. Also, they must witness to lost people, be involved in reaching people for Sunday School, minister to persons, and lead others to be involved in ministry, participate regularly in personal worship and worship with the church family, demonstrate loyalty and a positive attitude toward the work of the church, participate in training opportunities, and use and support the use of Southern Baptist literature.

"We realize this will not include every teacher who is making an impact through Bible study, but it provides a way to recognize some of the teachers who are making a dynamic impression on Southern Baptists," Apple said.

Churches submitting recommendations for the Bible Teachers Wall of Fame should provide a one-page letter for each person recommended, including the person's address and

phone number. The letter must be signed by the pastor, minister of education, or Sunday School director.

Churches must provide a 5-by-7-inch photo or portrait of the person recommended. Photos will not be returned but will be used in the Wall of Fame display, Apple said.

Recommendations must be postmarked no later than Feb. 14, 1992, and mailed to the Baptist Sunday School Board, Recognition of Experienced Teachers, MSN 173A, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, TN 37234.

Persons included in the Wall of Fame and attending the National Convocation on the Bible will participate in a procession during the convocation and receive a certificate from the Sunday School Board.

Apple encourages churches to help pay the way for persons recommended for the Wall of Fame to attend the convocation. "This is a way to honor them and show appreciation for their involvement," he said.

## World's farthest flung prayer meeting to gather at "four corners of the earth"

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands (EP) — The world's farthest-flung prayer meeting will take place this fall when Christians will gather at all four corners of the earth to pray for world evangelization.

Hundreds will make their ways to the furthestmost points of the world's major land masses to "surround" the globe with prayers Sept. 21 for the evangelization of all peoples, according to a report from Youth With A Mission in Amsterdam.

Thousands more with a similar pioneer spirit but unable to take such far-reaching actual steps are expected to gather at the "corners" of their countries, cities and community to join in casting a "prayer net" over the entire earth.

The "Cardinal Points Prayer Day" is the brainchild of Youth With A Mission founder and President Loren Cunningham.

"First we want to thank the Lord for the provision of salvation through Christ on the cross, for the millions he has saved through the centuries, in our generation and especially in the last decade," explains Cunningham,

who plans to join those gathering at Cape Piau, Malaysia, the southernmost point of Asia.

"Second, we will have times of praise for who God is in his greatness over the universe and over this speck called earth and over each one of the people on this earth," he added. "We are believing for multiplied millions to be won into his kingdom during this decade."

From sunrise to sunset the group — Youth With A Mission staff, along with workers from other mission agencies and local church members who want to join in — will link up in a period of combined prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

Together with a geographer, Australian Roger McKnight and his team have been busy researching the logistical and geographical obstacles in seeing people make their way to each of the extremities.

That means securing the use of four-wheeled drive vehicles to reach Steep Point, a remote spot out on the western Australian coastline, and finding horses to carry the Chilean contingent out to windswept Cape

Froward, out on the largely barren Brunswick Peninsula.

Among the other prayer points is snow-covered Cape Dezhneva, looking out across the Bering Sea towards Alaska from the Soviet Union's easternmost mainland and only recently opened to visitors even from within the USSR.

(See **FOUR CORNERS** on page 8)

## Not strangers, but brothers

By Howard H. Williams

Life is complicated. Even the simple matter of determining the end of night and beginning of day can be difficult. Consider the story of the rabbi who asked his young students, "How can we know when night has ended, and the new day has begun?" The students posed several possibilities for the rabbi. To each of them he responded, "No, that's not it." Finally, the rabbi answered, "It is when you can look at a face you have never seen before, and recognize it as the face of a sister or brother. Until that moment, no matter how bright the day, it is still night."

Whether we want to admit it or not, that idea truly is new to most of us. To look at all of humanity as our brothers or sisters is too much for us. It is much easier to subdivide and label others as different from us. It is easier to think of people as either friends or enemies. Others are either like us or not.

Jesus knew this problem of humanity and spoke to it when he said, "Love your enemies." He spoke to the problem again in the story of the Samaritan. The Samaritan had discovered what his predecessors had not. The Samaritan knew the difference between night and day as he bent over to help the one in need.

As we go about our business each day is it possible for us to not think of others as different, but as our brothers and sisters? Perhaps if we could only see those who disgust or anger us as family, we could then find solutions to the problems of prejudice, injustice, hunger, and more. To look into the eyes of another and see not a stranger, but a sister or a brother might move us to take the gospel of Christ to places and people we had never before considered. How do we know when the night is over? Well, before you look outside your window, look first inside your heart.

Williams is associate pastor, Northside Church, Clinton.

### REST

From page 2

dangerously close to making "works" a part of salvation. Some desire to crowd all their religion into one day, declaring it sacred and all others secular. Truth is, every day belongs to God and is equally sacred territory in the divine economy. "Give us this day our daily bread" is a cry for every day to be a day of prayer, acknowledging God, trusting him for sustenance and forgiveness.

We are commanded to "forsake not the assembling of ourselves together . . ." (Heb. 10:25). There is to be a time of worship, a day set apart, wholly voluntary, prompted by our love for

Christ. It's to be a day of physical rest and spiritual activities. Paul reminds us:

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.

Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery" (Gal. 5:1 NIV).

The unbelievers, as a rule, entertain few thoughts of the law nor grace. They are free to do as they please seven days a week. The believers are also free but their freedom was purchased at a great cost and if you belong to Christ, you are free indeed. Thus the believer's desire is to please God — seven days a week. There is the divine task of changing the world, not letting the world change the Christian . . . by the renewing of your mind.



Annie would have been proud of

## Mississippi Baptists

A century ago, Annie Armstrong rallied Southern Baptists to new frontiers of missions involvement. In handwritten letters mailed daily, she petitioned Home Mission Board president Isaac Tichenor to act on mission needs in America. Today, missions and evangelism are still the heartbeat of our denomination. Through your gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, you help share the message of Christ for our nation.

Thank you, Mississippi Baptists, for continuing to support the very essence of our heritage.

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## Webbs celebrate golden year



Mr. &amp; Mrs. Webb

Allen O. Webb and Leila Mae Runnels Webb were honored with a reception in the fellowship hall of First Church, Pascagoula, Aug. 18, to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. Webb, who is retired director of missions, Jackson County Association, sang to his wife, "The Sunshine of Your Smile." Harold Bryson, professor at New Orleans Seminary, spoke on the significance of 50 years of marriage. Mrs. Jim (Margaret) Webb played the piano during the celebration. Mrs. Ron (Candice) Webb, daughter Ann Webb Bridges, and grandchildren, Kim Bridges, Wendy and Kathryn Webb, Carley and Leslie Webb, and David Allen Bridges, served refreshments. Sons James Allen Webb and Ronald Lee Webb made photographs. The honorees live at 4008 South Shore Drive, Pascagoula 39581.

## Staff changes

Tommy Neal Snyder has accepted the pastorate of Wildwood Church, Clinton, effective September. He was formerly at Tate Street Church, Corinth. A native of West Memphis, Ark., he received his education at New Albany High School, Mississippi College, BA; Southwestern Seminary, master of divinity; and Luther Rice Seminary, doctor



Snyder

of ministry.

Big Level Church, Gulf Coast Association, has called Charlie Remple as pastor. He is moving from Oklahoma. Remple served Success Church when he was a student at New Orleans Seminary.

Levon Moore has been called as interim pastor of the Williamsville Church in Attala Association. This is his eighth interim pastorate since retirement in 1985 as director of missions in the Attala Association. He and his wife, Pauline, live in Kosciusko.

Faithview Church, Gulf Coast Association, has called Billy Murphy of Laurel as pastor. He was formerly pastor of Wildwood Church.

Maybank Church, Hattiesburg, has called George G. Aultman as pastor, effective July 22. A native of Sumrall, he received his education from Clarke College, University of Southern Mississippi, and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg.



Aultman

Marty Romero has resigned Shoreline Church in Gulf Coast Association. He and his family are moving to New Orleans where he will resume his studies at New Orleans Seminary.

Derma Church, Calhoun Association, has called Miss Kim Parker of Bruce as music director. Sonny Kelly is pastor.

## Interested in volunteering for Alaska, Hawaii?

Any men interested in going on a mission to Hawaii June 16-23, 1992, or to Juneau, Alaska, July 6-17, 1992, to do construction work may phone Olyn Roberts at 263-4886 or write him at Route 2, Box 298, Mathiston, MS 39752.

His Juneau, Alaska, team will re-roof three buildings, pour a concrete sidewalk, build cabinets, and do some plumbing-electrical work at Glacier Valley, where he was once pastor. He said he needs 36 men and eight women for the Alaska project.

For Hawaii, he said, "I need some carpenters who could spend a month or more in Hawaii overseeing projects there." Two, or possibly three, church units are to be built. He states there will be some VBS work in Hawaii for women volunteers, but none that he has lined up in Alaska. Roberts is pastor, Blythe Creek Church, Mathiston.

## Rays retire

Charles and Mary Elizabeth Ray, missionaries to Japan since 1971, have retired from active missionary service. He was involved in pastoral evangelism and she was a church and home worker. He is a native of Fort Worth, Texas, and she is the former Mary Elizabeth Gilbert of Perry County, Miss. They may be addressed at P. O. Box 339 Purvis, Miss. 39475.

## Revival dates

Springdale, Ripley (Tippah): Sept. 8-11; Bill Baker, West Ripley, evangelist; McAlister Family, music; services, 7 nightly; Maurice Pinkston, pastor.

West Ellisville, Ellisville: Sept. 8-11; David Miller, director of missions, Little Rock, Ark., evangelist; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Dwight L. Smith, pastor.

Nineteenth Avenue, Hattiesburg: Sept. 8-11; Gus Merritt, Clarke-Venable, Decatur, evangelist; Monty Bounds, Nineteenth Avenue, music; services, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Grady B. Parker, pastor.

West End (Winston): Sept. 8-13; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; services during week, 7 p.m.; Rob Faulk, Chester Church, evangelist; Robert and Jennifer Vest, Kosciusko, leading the singing; Wayne Hill, pastor.

Parkway, Houston: Sept. 8-12; 7:30 p.m. nightly; David Kendall, pastor of Parkway Church, evangelist; Lois Jane, Concert Testimony Ministry, Gallatin, Tenn., guest singer; Sandra Naron, pianist; Shirley Thomas, organist.

Schlater, (Leflore): Sept. 15-17; 7 p.m.; H. D. Smith Jr., evangelist; David Brannon, music.

Considering what experience costs, it should be the best teacher. — The Baldwin (Miss.) News

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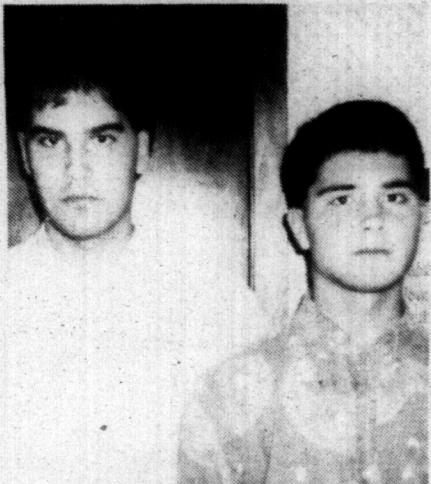
The Attala Association has completed a ten-week summer park ministry at Holmes County State Park. Even though this is a relatively small park, the Sunday morning services averaged in attendance 20 campers throughout the summer. Only one week were there no campers in

the park. "The Lord blessed us with an above average number of campers in the park for most of the summer," said Jimmy Kettleman, park ministries director, Attala Association, and pastor, McAdams Church.

Tony and Chris Terry, both members of Sallis Church, were employed by the Attala Association as summer workers in the park. They passed out bulletins and invited campers to the Sunday services each Saturday. Then each Sunday morning they prepared the outdoor worship area, and provided support for the lay leaders and pastors who came out to lead the worship services. Their efforts were instrumental in keeping attendance up over what it had been in the past.

McAdams Church supplied New Testaments that were used in the morning services, and then were given to campers who wanted to keep them.

A total of 41 lay people from Attala and Holmes associations were involved in this local missions effort.



Tony (left) and Chris Terry.

## Provost urges Southern to focus on 'inclusion'

By Pat Cole

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Declaring the Southern Baptist Convention denominational battle is over, new Southern Seminary Provost Larry L. McSwain urged the school to expand its role as an institution of "denominational inclusion."

During Aug. 27 convocation services opening the fall semester at the Louisville, Ky., school, McSwain said anyone who doubts conservatives have won the 12-year fight for control of the SBC should "take a high school course in political science." Still, he maintained Southern Seminary must be a place that includes all Southern Baptists regardless of their theological/political persuasion, educational attainment, economic background, ethnic origin, or gender.

The school should pursue a future of "excellence without arrogance," McSwain emphasized: "What must be maintained in this place is the reality that the brightest and most resourceful do have at least one place in this convention, but never as a snobbish elite that excludes any with the willingness to learn."

McSwain, who became provost Aug. formally was installed during convocation by seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt. A member of the Southern Seminary faculty since 1970, McSwain had been dean of the School of Theology for three years.

McSwain expressed his commit-

ment to implement the "Covenant Renewal" document approved by the seminary's faculty and trustees earlier this year. He insisted the seminary will not sacrifice academic excellence by abiding by the covenant's provision that future faculty openings be filled by conservative evangelical scholars. Rather, he said the covenant can help "broaden the perspectives" of the faculty.

"I have never understood how you can claim academic freedom as a value and exclude conservative views from the educational experience any more than I believe you can claim academic freedom in an institution that refuses to teach its students liberation theology or feminist theology," he said.

The seminary's faculty always has been fully committed to the authority of Scripture, McSwain said. "The covenant spells out what some have misunderstood. This faculty has stood and continues to stand unreserved in its commitment to the full and complete authority of Scripture as the norm for faith and practice."

Cole writes for Southern Seminary.

"Beer drinking is the open door through which many young people enter to be forever shackled by alcohol." — Milford O. Rouse, president, Texas Medical Association.



# Just for the Record



**Faith Church, Starkville**, went on a mission trip this summer to North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada, July 12-20. The group worked with Backyard Bible Club during the day and Youth Vacation Bible School at night. Blaine Allen is the pastor of Faith Church.

They are, left to right, standing left of sign, Heather Cochran, Amelia Watkins, Shannon Rule (kneeling), Carrie Anne Allen, Bridget Vaughn, Michael Bratcher, Susan Smith, Jake Rager; standing right of sign, Don Rule, Danny Ditta, Dell Mitchell; kneeling in center, Lea Mohammadi, Misti Smith, Shellie Mitchell, Angela Kellum, Cynthia Bratcher, Brent Mitchell, Stuart Smith, and Lewis Harrell (youth minister).



**First Church, Jackson**, sponsored Run For The Son on Saturday Aug. 24, with 770 runners participating. Canned goods and clothing collected were contributed to the Crestwood Baptist Mission Center in Jackson.



**New Zion Church, Crystal Springs**, recognized its GAs on Aug. 11 for their achievements in Mission Adventures. The theme was "Jesus, Light of the World." Pictured, bottom left, are Melissa Turnbo, Rachel Wright, Jessica Merchant, Kristi Cessna, Stacie Drew, Lindsey Wright, Sharon Brewer (leader), Valerie Brewer, Shannon Lackey, Tracy Hisaw, Bethan Turnbo, Missy Smith, Kathy Wroten. Back row, leaders are Robin Lackey, Mae Thornton (WMU director), Diann Choins, Donna Kay Smith, Marcia Merchant. Not pictured are Tiffany Farmer and Amanda Uzzle. Leroy Brewer is pastor.



The youth group of **First Church, Richton**, recently conducted Vacation Bible School while on a mission trip to Mascotte, Fla. There were 31 professions of faith. Also the group sang at three churches and a nursing home, and visited a crippled children's hospital. Eddie Wilhite is minister of youth. John S. Allen is pastor.



A mission group, consisting of ten adults and ten youths, from **Wyatte Church, Senatobia**, departed on July 13 to assist First Baptist Church of Seward, Pa., in reaching its community for Christ. The activities included a youth concert, youth revival, two Backyard Bible Clubs and door-to-door surveying with an emphasis of placing a Great Commission New Testament in every home. John A. Raulerson is pastor.

"Castlewoods Church, Castlewoods subdivision near the Barnett Reservoir, will begin a second worship service on Sept. 8. This 8:30 a.m. service will be addition to the current 11 a.m. worship time, and will provide a choice of style as well as time of worship preferred," says Larry McDonald, pastor. The early service will be an informally oriented one and the later service will be traditional.

**Wynndale Church, Springridge Road, Terry**, will have Rendy Lovelady, Sunday, Sept. 8 as special guest. Lovelady, a former rock and roll promoter, will speak and sing. Charles Gentry is pastor.

Seventeen boys representing Derna and Rocky Branch churches in Calhoun Association participated in an RA Bike-A-Thon for World Hunger. The amount pledged was \$506.18. The amount collected was \$509.65.

## Homecomings

**College Hill Heights, Oxford**: Sept. 8; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds at noon; gospel music service, 1 p.m.; Wesley Nicholas, pastor, Cherry Street Church, Clarksdale, guest preacher; The Praisemen from Senatobia, featured singers; Jimmy Williams, pastor.

**Williamsville (Attala)**: Sept. 8; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Levon Moore, newly-elected interim pastor, speaker; members and visitors will be recognized; old fashioned "home-coming dinner" served in Family Life Center at noon.

## FOUR CORNERS

From page 7

Sverdlovsk, close to the Ural Mountains, is one of two "internal extremities" — the other being the Central American border between Panama and Colombia — chosen to represent a major cultural and historical division between two main regions of the world.

September was chosen for the prayer day since it is most likely to provide the most favorable climate at all sites, but even so it will mean wrapping up warmly for those heading to places like Cape Dezhneva — where temperatures could be well below freezing.

During their prayer meetings, each group will make a record of the topics they cover and Bible passages they believe are significant to help compile a global record of the day.

McKnight said, "This is not intended to be a YWAM thing by any means. It has the potential to be a wonderful way of expressing solidarity in responding to the Great Commission," he commented. "We are interested in the fact that 1.3 billion people are completely unreached by the gospel."

He added, "Jesus commands us to go to the uttermost parts of the earth, but the Bible also speaks a lot in the Old Testament about the corners of the earth, the ends of the earth; there is a significance there."

"So there is a symbolism and a reality in going to these places. It is taking literally and with a fairly kind of simplistic faith the command to go to the ends of the earth for Jesus."

He concluded, "The Bible also talks of the earth as being God's inheritance. We want to be part of hastening that inheritance for him."

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## Women in Ministry will hold retreat

"Proclamation: Our Lives as Living Word" will be the theme of the first annual Southern Baptist Women in Ministry Retreat. The retreat will be held at Scarritt-Bennett Retreat Center in Nashville, Tenn., beginning Thursday, Nov. 7 at 5:30 p.m. and concluding after lunch Saturday, Nov. 9.

The retreat will offer time and space for solitude and time to share proclamations. Retreat sessions will be led by Mary Zimmer, center administrator for SBWIM and editor of Folio. The proclamation of the lives of five biblical women will form the basis of the retreat program of spiritual renewal and empowerment, as well as the use of imagination as a prayer guide. Sarah Frances Anders, Carolyn Hale, and Cindy Harp Johnson will lead worship.

SBWIM members and interested persons are encouraged to participate. Cost for members is \$100, with an additional \$30 annual membership fee for non-members. This covers a private room, shared bath for two nights, and six meals.

Registration blanks are included in the current copy of Folio or may be obtained from the SBWIM/Folio office, 2800 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, KY 40206, phone (506) 896-4425. Space for the retreat is limited.

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Thursday, September 5, 1991

## Correction

The August 15 issue of the **Baptist Record** incorrectly listed the address of Keith and Penny Stamps, missionaries to Guatemala. Their address while in the States on furlough is 314 S. 23rd Ave., Hattiesburg, MS 39401, phone (601) 582-3744. They will return to the field in June of 1992.

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# From uncommon grounds to common service

By Kiely D. Young  
Acts: 9:26-30, 11:19-30

Our text brings to light a biblical truth that God uses folks from varied backgrounds to accomplish his ultimate purpose. Our basic tasks since the first century have been evangelism and edification; simply stated reaching the lost and teaching the saved. Saul, the fervent persecutor, became a bold evangelist. He was discipled and encouraged by Barnabas, the "Son of Consolation." Together they were responsible for the launching of the first century missionary movement.



Young

**EDIFICATION IN ACTION** (Acts 9:26-31). Saul's reputation as a persecutor followed him after his conversion. Even though his preaching the gospel in Damascus had confounded the Jews to the point they wanted to kill him, the believers in Jerusalem were still hesitant to receive him. It was not until Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told of Saul's bold preaching of the gospel in Damascus that they were willing to welcome him into their fellowship. Saul was exercising his gift of ex-

## UNIFORM

hortation and Barnabas his gift of encouragement. Saul's witness in Jerusalem caused more conflict than consolation. The Jews then plotted to kill him, but God had other plans. The apostles sent Saul to Tarsus. In the process, the churches of Judea, Galilee, and Samaria were edified. This resulted from each man functioning according to his own spiritual gifts. Growth will take place in any church, numerically and spiritually when members function together as one. Every member should exercise his own gift "according to the effectual working of every part, making increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:16).

**EVANGELIZATION OF THE LOST** (Acts 11:19-24). Under the persecution of Saul, many believers traveled great distances to avoid bondage and death. Some went as far as Antioch of Syria, some 300 miles north of Jerusalem. Antioch was a city of half a million people. Here the doors were open to share the gospel message. As they preached, "the hand of the Lord was upon them and a great number believed and turned to the Lord" (v. 21). The persecuted believers didn't feel intimidated by

the magnificence of the capital city, because they were gifted with the Word of God and the spiritual gifts necessary for the task. The work in Antioch was going so strong that word got back to Jerusalem. Barnabas was sent to bring further nurture to the new believers (vv. 22-23). His gift of edification was exactly what they needed. And, Barnabas needed to see the work of God at Antioch (v. 23). There were two great results of Barnabas's work at Antioch. First, the church's witness made a great impact on the city so that many were added to the Lord. Second, the growth of the church necessitated additional help for Barnabas, so he sent to Tarsus for Saul. Barnabas knew God had commissioned Saul to minister to the Gentiles (9:15). Barnabas did Saul a great favor in enlisting his assistance in Antioch.

This same practice needs to be used more today. It was one of D. L. Moody's policies that each new Christian be given a task soon after conversion. Moody said, "It is better to put ten men to work than to do the work of ten men."

Verse 26 tells us these new believers in Christ were first called "Christians" in Antioch. This meant "they belonged to the party of" Christ. It came to mean "one who has turned from sin, trusted Jesus Christ, and received salvation by grace" (11:21-23). But, it could also mean suffering; it could be a matter of life or death.

David Otis Fuller has asked a question for today's Christians, "If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"

**ENCOURAGEMENT IN THE FAITH** (Acts 11:27-30). Here again we see evidence of the total body of Christ in action. Agabus, a prophet from Jerusalem, brought word to the new Christians in Antioch of a coming famine in Jerusalem and Judea. These new believers responded, "Every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judea" (v. 29). An important spiritual principle is illustrated in this action of the Christians at Antioch. If people who have been a spiritual blessing to us come to a point of material need, we should respond from a heart of gratitude to be a part of meeting their needs.

It is important to note the Antioch Christians sent their relief offering in the hands of Barnabas and Saul. This is further evidence of the bond of Christ that joined the new Christians with those who brought them to the faith. Saul and Barnabas were men of unique spiritual abilities, each quite different from the other, yet complementing each other. So it is with members of the body of Christ, serving together for the glory of God.

Young is pastor, First, Greenwood.

## "Teach us to pray" — a model prayer

By Don Dobson  
Matthew 6:1, 7-15

Why do we pray? How long should our prayers be? These are just a few of the questions I have been asked about praying. However, the one question that I will always remember was offered by an elderly deacon in my first church. He wanted to know what was the best position for praying. Should we stand or should we kneel. I responded that the best position for prayer that I had discovered was hanging upside down 250 feet above a concrete floor. I had been working for a construction company, and had accidentally stepped in a coil of rope. I immediately tripped and found myself in an urgent if not precarious



Dobson

## LIFE AND WORK

position of prayer.

Jesus had a lot to say about prayer. In our focal passage for today, he brings us to several truths. We notice . . .

### I. Misguided motives (vv. 1, 7-8)

Christ instructed his disciples to use caution as they prayed. He made it very clear that alms giving and praying are to be offered as a tribute to God. The Heavenly Father will have no part in showmanship praying. It is to be done in such a way that it calls no attention whatsoever to the participant.

Verse 7 could very well be a warning to those who approached the temple as some type of religious relic. Often, those that worshiped in Jerusalem would touch a temple wall and repeat, "The temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord." There was no power in the temple.

They were missing the point. Christ asked for sincerity in the prayers of his children.

We need to be specific in our petitions to God. Our motives should be born out of a deep concern for those around us.

### II. A model (vv. 9-13)

How many of us know verses 9-13 by heart? How many of us understand the Model Prayer? In these five verses, Christ sets forth the ultimate prayer. As we examine this prayer we notice . . .

1. God acknowledged as holy
2. God acknowledged as Father
3. The ultimate consummation of his kingdom
4. Total acceptance of his will
5. Gratitude for daily needs
6. Forgiveness
7. Power to escape temptation.

The Lord's Prayer is much more than a "magical incantation" to be offered by athletic teams or by any other group, for that matter.

It is the prayer that Christ used as an example, for when we commune with God.

### III. Mandate to forgive (vv. 14-15)

Forgiveness was a very important topic to Jesus. Guess what? It still is. However, in verses 14-15, he stresses the importance of forgiving one another. In fact, Christ says it is so important that our forgiveness from God is based on our attitudes towards others. Why should we expect to receive divine forgiveness if we cannot practice earthly forgiveness? There is an old saying to this effect, "To err is human, to forgive is divine." Christ tells us it is also a pretty good idea to take part in reciprocal forgiveness. Do it here. Do it now.

As we forgive, we need to be aware of three elements:

1. Ask God's forgiveness.
2. Forgive those around you.
3. Forgive yourself.

Dobson is pastor, Collins Church, Collins.

## Fifty years of idolatry led by Israel's kings

By Randy W. Turner  
1 Kings 5:25-16:34

Idolatry is the practice of ascribing absolute value to things of relative worth. Under certain circumstances money, patriotism, sexual freedom, moral principles, family loyalty, physical health, social or intellectual preeminence, and so on are fine things to have around but to make them the standard by which all other values are measured, to make them your masters, to look to them to justify your life and save your soul is sheerest folly. They just aren't up to it.



Turner

Idolatry led by Israel's kings demonstrates that a pattern of continual disregard for God leads others to disobey God. Jeroboam's son and successor was killed by Baasha, Baasha's son and successor was killed by Zimri who reigned for a week and then burned the palace and died in the flames. A struggle for the throne followed between Omri, the commander in chief, and Tibni. Tibni died and Omri reigned. So in fifty years the kingdom that was to relieve Israel from oppression staggered through seas of blood, and four kings or would-be kings died by violence.

The lessons to be drawn from these severely condensed records, cut down to the bone, as it were, are plain. The first of them is that when a life is over, the one thing that lasts or is worth thinking about is the man's relation to God and his will. Here, a 12 year reign in the one case, 22 in the other, all boil down into a half dozen sentences and estimated according to one standard only. What has become of all the eager

## BIBLE BOOK

strife, joys and sorrows, hopes and fears that burned so fiercely for a while? All died down into a handful of gray ashes and what lies in them like a hunk of solid metal that has been melted out of the huge heap of days and deeds that fed the fire, the man's relation to God. That is what abides. It is what is recorded, what determines everything about him.

Our lives will all come down to this at last. "How did he stand towards God and his will?" is the final question that will be asked each of us. The answer to it is the only thing that concerns the dead or the living for that matter. "He was a great scholar;" "He made a huge fortune;" "He rose to heights among his peers;" "She was a noted beauty, a leader of fashion, a queen of society;" what will all such epitaphs be worth if God's finger carves silently below them, "He did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord."

Another lesson we find in here is a certain widening of the smallest departure from God. Jeroboam professed to retain the worship of Jehovah and to introduce only a small alteration in setting up a symbol of him. He would vehemently have asserted that he was no idolater and would have shuddered at the very notion of bowing down to the gods of the nations. But in less than 50 years a temple to Baal rose in Samaria and his worship with its foul sensuality was corrupting all of Israel. However acute the angle of departure, the line has only to be prolonged and the distance between it and that from which is diverged will be the distance between heaven and hell.

We can hardly expect to say, "This far and no farther will I go." There is no stopping at will

on that course any more than a man sliding down a steeply sloping sheet of smooth ice can pull himself up before he plunges over the edge. Jeroboam's symbolism led straight to Ahab's unblushing pagan worship of hideous Baal. Anything, whether seemingly evil or good, that eclipses us from the face of God himself becomes our idol and very dangerous.

Another lesson from Ahab's reign is the need of detachment from entangling alliances. That is, if we would keep ourselves right with God. It was Israel's calling to be separate from the nations. It was Israel's temptation either to mix with them or to keep aloof from them in contempt and hatred. Ahab's marriage with Jezebel was no doubt thought by his father to be a clever stroke of policy, assuring him of an

ally. Rather it flooded the nation with the cruel and lustful cult of Baal which finally ruined Ahab and his house.

God's servants can never mingle themselves with his enemies without harm unless they mingle with them for the purpose of training them into his servants. If we prefer the company of those who do not love Jesus, our love for him must be faint and will soon be fainter. If Ahab takes Jezebel for his wife, Ahab will soon take Jezebel's foul god for his god.

Idolatry has always been popular among religious people but with time, the absence of real power in the idols becomes evident and unmistakable. Our only hope is in the living, loving Jehovah God.

Turner is pastor, Parkway Church, Natchez.

## Bush vetoes abortion funding

WASHINGTON (BP) — President George Bush has used the first of what promises to be several vetoes of congressional attempts to weaken abortion-funding restrictions this year.

On Aug. 17, the president vetoed a District of Columbia appropriations bill (H.R. 2699) that would have allowed the district government to pay for abortions with local tax money.

The House of Representatives had passed the bill by a vote of 239-180. The Senate had OK'd it by a voice vote.

"From the outset of my administration, I have repeatedly stated my deep personal concern about the tragedy in America of abortion on demand,"

Bush said in a statement released on the day of the veto. "As a nation, we must protect the unborn. H.R. 2699 does not provide such protection."

The bill vetoed by Bush prohibits federal funds to the district from being used for abortion but not funds raised by the local government. Under the Constitution, Congress has authority over the District of Columbia.

"I would encourage Southern Baptists to let President Bush and their representatives know of their support for the president's veto of this terrible bill," said Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW

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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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June 30, 1991

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## Singles achieve wholeness in Christ

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — Laguna Honda Hospital in San Francisco, Calif., is the place where Bob Deel lives out the 1991 Single Adult Emphasis theme, "Achieving Wholeness in Christ." Deel, assistant director of Free Wheelers, a recreational therapy program based at the hospital, helps provide a way for wheelchair-bound persons like Ted Durbin, right, to keep active. Enhancing the quality of life for those who live their lives in wheelchairs includes "keeping them in touch with activities as well as other people," said Deel. Single Adult Day will be observed Sept. 8 in many churches.

## "Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ"

By Durell Young  
Romans 13:14

My two girls love to wear dresses. They cavort into my room on Sunday morning like New York fashion models. I smile and make a big fuss over how pretty they look and they leave grinning from ear to ear.

Kristen is particularly humorous. I can hear her coming because her favorite sleepwear, a pink-plastic diaper, squeaks. She trips at least once over the dress she is carrying, narrowly escaping a stab from the hanger. (Now I know why children's clothes come on those white plastic hangers.) She picks herself up and gracefully places the dress over her front. Her eyes look for my approval and with the smile on her face it could be a garbage bag and I'd have to smile, too.

Yet in her closet is my favorite dress. It is a white dress with different colored balloons embroidered around the letters K-R-I-S-T-E-N.

The dress is rather plain looking. It's not the type dress you would win a beauty pageant in, but if the dress could speak its message would jar us all out of apathy and complacency. Every time I see it I count my blessings.

For you see, the dress was handed down to our Kristen. It was a special gift given to us by Lisa's cousin, Susan. Susan's Kristen was born in 1982 and was her first-born. Kristen was full of life and zest until leukemia took her life in 1986 at the LeBonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis.

The dress speaks to me every time I see it. I am reminded of the precious nature of a child, the terrible nature of death, the sacredness of life, the importance of living every day to the fullest.

"Put it on me, Daddy," Kristen will say to me. And I will take the dress and place it on her a little more carefully than any of her other dresses. I watch her in the mirror as I button the back of the dress. She smiles and I feel the tears well in my eyes. And I say a silent prayer:

*Clothe her, dear Lord, in righteousness. So that one day she will know the important things are those you cannot see or buy. And when she too departs this life may her name be etched, not only on a dress, but also in the Lamb's Book of Life.* — Reprinted from "The Lamplighter," Friendship Church, Grenada, where Young is minister of music and youth.

# Ida Owen, "bold missionary," dies; her "miracle library" still lives

Ida Owen, longtime faithful member of First Church, Eudora, retired as librarian, Desoto County Schools, in 1981. Her husband had just died and she was free from other responsibilities. Ervin Brown, DOM, Northwest Association, was enlisting people for a bold mission project, to go to Billings, Montana, to work on the new Yellowstone Baptist College. One special need there was to set up the college library. Brown called Mrs. Owen and asked if she could go and begin this library work.

She decided to go with the team. At the school, she found a few ragged shelves and several boxes of books. She and a few women began to catalogue the books; some of the men built shelves. It looked much better when they left after a week, but did not complete all the work. After a few days at home, she called Brown, and said she was praying about going back out there for a few days to complete getting the library ready for school.

The need continued to grow and she stayed for ten years, serving as the college librarian with no pay. They have now a library with 28,000 books, all properly catalogued, with nice shelves that other mission teams have built, videos, and tapes. The library has been enlarged and named the "Ida Dockery Owen Library."

Not only has she been a librarian par-excellence, but Jack Coward, president, Yellowstone Baptist College, says that she not only provided a great library for the school, but became a "special friend and counselor" to many of the students there as she assisted them in finding resources for their studies. He said she also became a "foreign missionary" as she loved and worked with some Korean students there, who will return home with a part of her life with them. She went on an associational bold mission project that was to last only a few days, but stayed for ten years as a world missionary!

She came home to Hernando, Miss.

in July 1991 to visit with family and friends, with a date set in August to go back to her beloved "mission field." She had a heart attack on July 29, and another on Aug. 13, and went to be with her Lord. She would have been 79 on Aug. 25. She gave ten years of her retirement life as a "missionary," not appointed by any board, but called of her Lord!

Her family requested any memorials be sent to Yellowstone Baptist College, 1515 Shiloh Rd., Billings, Mt. 59106, designated for the Library Building Fund.

President Coward reported, "Some months ago during our morning devotions, Miss Ida stated that the library was out of space and it was time for us to begin praying for a new building for the library. Shortly thereafter, the board approved a new building for the library and classrooms. A preliminary sketch has been made. Miss Ida always referred to the library as 'her miracle library.'"

## Marks youths lead VBS in Alabama, go camping in "family" groups in Texas

The youths of First Church, Marks, report they've had a fun and fulfilling summer. From May 31 to June 7, 11 went to Gulf Shores, Ala. along with three adults, to lead mission Vacation Bible Schools. They had trained by working in their own church VBS.

The VBS at Gulf Shores National Park was under direction of Aleesa Naish, minister of music and youth at First Church. At Gulf Shores City Park, Peggy Macknally directed the school. The other adult, Beverly Reans, shuttled between the two sites helping as needed, as well as picking up and delivering children.

Attendance ran the gamut from a high of 30 to an average of 12 at each site. Most of those who came to the City Park VBS were locals, while the state park VBS attracted more vacationers.

For Sunday, the group led a worship service at 8 a.m. for eight people at Gulf Shores Plantation, a resort condominium complex. At 10 a.m. they held a worship service at the state park with 25 in attendance. Both services were under direction of Aleesa Naish.

Naish.

On Thursday night, before the youth left for home next day, they had a Family Night with 75 in attendance. The young people presented a skit entitled, "Miss Churchy" that applied to all ages, then followed with a concert which was well received.

The youths who led these Bible schools were Jennifer Barron, Mary Ann Davis, Emily Green, Heather Irby, Hope Jamison, Lee Lewis, Kellye Macknally, Melissa Nobles, Misty Nobles, Mary Margaret Trippe, and Amy Walker.

Some of these same teenagers, along with others from First, Marks, went to camp July 31-Aug. 2 at Trinity Pines Camp near Trinity, Tex. The campers were divided into groups of 10 called "families." In their families, morning discussions were held on various topics led by the high school juniors and seniors who served as the "family" leaders. Also recreational activities were enjoyed. A quiet time was set aside daily for the campers. The morning worship time was led by Rusti Moore of Willow Meadows

Church, Houston, and the evening worship time was led by an acting group, also from Houston. The afternoons were given over to various recreations from water sports to fun games and activities.

The Marks contingent included two adults, Aleesa Naish, and Peggy Macknally; one college student, Hanson Hinton, who worked on the recreational staff; and 12 campers, Heather Irby, Lona Hinton, Kathy Waller, Matthew Vincent, Brandon Bennett, Bill Walker, Shannon Bennett, Amy Walker, Jennifer Barron, Sheila Boyd, Mary Ann Davis, and Kellye Macknally.

One of the highlights for the Marks group was the "Happy Camper" awards. These are special recognition awards voted on in each of the 20 "families" and given to the most valued camper in each family. These "Happy Campers" were given a cassette with the song "Treasure Island" which was in keeping with the overall camp theme, "Island Treasure." Out of the 190 attending, four of the 20 "Happy Camper" awards went to youth from Marks, First: Jennifer Barron, Sheila Boyd, Amy Walker, and Bill Walker.

## Grace Church, Bangkok celebrates 40 years

The oldest Southern Baptist Church in Thailand, Grace Baptist Church of Bangkok, celebrated its 40th anniversary Aug. 11, 1991, according to Maxine Stewart, missionary press representative.

In 1950, a small group of Chinese, Indian, and American Christians began meeting in the home of Deaver and Dorothy Lawton, Southern Baptist missionaries who had transferred to Thailand in 1949 when the communists took control of China.

Grace Baptist Church was constituted in 1951, with services in Madarin Chinese and English. When former China missionaries, Glenn and Polly Morris, Mississippians, arrived in Thailand in 1952, the church called him as pastor.

The church soon outgrew the Lawtons' residence and moved to a rented shop building in late 1952. The English division of the church soon became Calvary Baptist Church.

The first Thai convert joined with newly appointed Southern Baptist

missionaries to become the Immanuel Baptist Church in late 1953. Another daughter, Thai-speaking Peace Baptist Church, was started in the same shop building after Grace moved to a different meeting place in 1958.

Grace Church also encouraged other transplanted former China missionaries in witnessing to Cantonese and Sawtow-speaking Chinese in Bangkok. Their efforts led to the establishment of Antioch Baptist Church and New Hope Baptist Church in the early 1960s.

In 1962, land was purchased and the present Grace Baptist Church building was constructed with funds borrowed in part from the Foreign Mission Board. Since then, the church has fully repaid those funds and has been one of the strongest supporters of Thai home missions, both through gifts to the Thailand Baptist Convention and through the sponsorship of Thai evangelist Udom Puongchan.

**Baptist Record**

5-01M UTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SO 00  
1 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401  
SHVILLE TN 37203

September 5, 1991

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205